

[01/11/2020, 11:01:11] Kate Josephs: The hard work of today is slogging through all these detailed exemptions. Probably helpful to try to pull together a master list of 'tricky questions' from number 10 given very tight timelines to regs.

[01/11/2020, 11:03:51] Henry: Yep that would be v helpful. Covered a lot yesterday morning but sure more will be thrown up. Think we will need to clarify babies point today. Could exempt children of below school age? (Given parents of school age children can see others when kids are at school)

[01/11/2020, 11:06:10] James Slack: This sounds sensible to me. It's a similar logic to the other changes we've made (playgrounds, one plus one etc). It's tough being a new parent and we understand the toll this is all taking etc.

[01/11/2020, 11:27:17] Henry: TF, the comms team are going to brief that children under school age with their parents are exempt from gathering of 2 - can you let us know in next hour if any problems with that?

Narrative is we've kept playgrounds open. We know this is hard. It means parents can go out in the daytime and talk to a friend while the kids either in a buggy or on a slide.

[01/11/2020, 11:31:24] Henry: Actually can you feed back by midday? Sorry

[01/11/2020, 11:31:37] Simon Ridley: We will do

[01/11/2020, 12:21:59] James Slack: PM is now expressing interest I no this. The exemption would presumably have to cut both ways. So 2 x parents of kids who are below school age could meet at the park? Ie potentially two adults and however many kids they have in total between them who are below school age. We'll get in a mess if we don't do it this way.

[01/11/2020, 12:31:22] Henry: Agree. Let's go with that - we'll announce on Twitter

[01/11/2020, 12:33:40] Henry: Related issue (sorry...) on childcare - can groups of children stay together after school, eg in the park or a house, with one parent or nanny? Ie under childcare exemption

[01/11/2020, 12:34:45] Emma Payne: Michael is working through options of how we deliver this. We can do it in the regs. Qu is whether you want to do it through exempting young kids from the '2 ppl' rule or whether want to do something like bubbles for new parents. I assume the former - but we can provide options if there's time.

[01/11/2020, 12:36:00] Henry: Got to be the former I think

[01/11/2020, 12:36:34] Henry: Desire is to clarify this right now as it's gaining traction quickly

[01/11/2020, 13:33:44] Rosie Bate-Williams: Can I check on the way the regs are being drafted re 2nd December - if these measures were extended beyond this date, would that require a fresh vote in the commons?

[01/11/2020, 13:34:43] Rosie Bate-Williams: Obviously we don't want this to happen but we're getting a bit of follow up from Sunday shows so would be good to say as well as the fact this isn't our plan that it would require another debate and vote

[01/11/2020, 13:37:36] Simon Ridley: Yes. Regs sunset on 2/12 on current approach

[01/11/2020, 13:37:41] Simon Ridley: Which must be right

[01/11/2020, 13:38:02] Rosie Bate-Williams: Wonderful thanks, will confirm ☐☐

[01/11/2020, 15:23:39] Imran Shafi: Can someone have a work meeting in their house? And will that change on Thursday?

[01/11/2020, 15:43:28] Emma Payne: Technically and legally, yes they can - If it's legitimately work (though I don't think we would advise this or draw attention to it). Would need to take steps to be covid secure etc

[04/01/2021, 15:02:00] Emma Payne: We'll aim to have this. (We have it for tier 4 so will only be some changes subject to final decisions)

[04/01/2021, 15:10:11] **NR**: Thanks E

[04/01/2021, 15:17:31] Henry: Could this be shared with me for the address? In particular the Stevens stat about hospitalisations up by a quarter (I think) in a week

[04/01/2021, 15:18:03] Henry: Are we seeing if the Welsh (and NI) want to move with us tonight?

[04/01/2021, 15:22:50] Steffan Jones: We'll send an email but to confirm, NHS Covid patients rose from 19,277 on Sunday 27th Dec to 24,957 on Sunday 3rd Jan. 29% increase.

[04/01/2021, 15:23:24] Steffan Jones: That is England.

[04/01/2021, 15:23:27] Emma Payne: Yes - CDL is speaking to FMs at 5pm and I'll speak to DA officials just before that

[04/01/2021, 15:57:52] Nikki Da Costa: Can we make sure somewhere in our comms that we are clear the restrictions do not apply to someone fleeing domestic abuse? We get kicked every time for not saying it.

[04/01/2021, 15:58:14] Nikki Da Costa: Particularly as we have 2R of domestic abuse Bill tomorrow in lords

[04/01/2021, 16:00:08] Meg Powell-Chandler: Just to agree with Rosie on this - can we suspend travel corridors?

[04/01/2021, 16:13:02] Emma Payne: JBC / DHSC are pushing to publish their Alert Level methodology today alongside alert level change. They say they've had this cleared by no 10 - can I check that that's the case?

[04/01/2021, 16:30:37] Helen Dickinson: We can suspend TCs. But it's not consistent with approach so far which is that border cases are greatest risk when UK prevalence is low. So CMO unlikely to support and would risk successful legal challenge. And would need to line up DAs or risk very confusing situation.

[04/01/2021, 16:31:22] James Slack: What will we say to Brits currently abroad? Come home when your holiday is over, go home and stay there?

[04/01/2021, 16:32:38] Helen Dickinson: Yes. And isolate or test to release

[04/01/2021, 16:32:46] Ollie Munn: Isn't the argument about novel variants coming in from abroad rather than simply infected people coming in from abroad? If it's the former, domestic prevalence is immaterial

[04/01/2021, 16:33:04] Rosie Bate-Williams: I get the risk relativity argument but surely even one imported case is one too many...

[04/01/2021, 16:56:16] Nikki Da Costa: Nurseries are already telling parents they may close tomorrow - we must give clarity on this tonight alongside schools

[04/01/2021, 17:34:12] Imran Shafi: Have we fed back on various steers to CDL/DHSC. I can forward my readout but it involves sharing the grid and not sure who has seen that

[04/01/2021, 17:34:19] Imran Shafi: Also hmt

[04/01/2021, 17:35:12] James Bowler: We'll do a summary to them. Simon briefing Whitehall DGs at high level

[04/01/2021, 17:56:25] Emma Payne: Guidance will come round in ten mins for comments (with strict 7pm deadline). Two pieces: a short headline piece, and the usual gov uk style piece

[04/01/2021, 18:21:22] Henry: Just sent address - grateful for v quick fact check

[04/01/2021, 18:22:10] Imran Shafi: Can we keep it on a fairly tight chain pls team - and not share w depts unless we say it's ok from here