

From: Andrew Curran [<mailto:Andrew.Curran@hse.gov.uk>]

Sent: 01 March 2020 16:59

To: PHE.NICC30 <PHE.NICC30@phe.gov.uk>; Whitty, Chris <Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk>; Thomas Evans <Tom.Evans@glasgow.ac.uk>

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Subject: Re: OFFICIAL: ACDP Derogation request

Dear All

I can confirm that HSE will support the proposed derogation for the testing of COVID-19 on the basis that it is:

- (1) very specifically limited to screening for COVID-19 infection;
- (2) that any work carried out under this derogation is performed with appropriate controls in place for Cat2 work;
- (3) that HSE work with PHE in develop appropriate comms to stress the specific nature of the derogation.

Hope this is OK, and happy to discuss.

Kind regards

Andrew

Prof Andrew Curran
Chief Scientific Adviser
Director of Research
Head of Science and Engineering Profession

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From: PHE.NICC30 <PHE.NICC30@phe.gov.uk>

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2020 3:34:09 PM

[See recipients listed above]

Dear Tom (ccing Andrew Curran CSA from HSE)

Hope all good with you, and with ACDP.

I think this may well be about to go quite fast, and we should certainly plan for that. We now have a much better fix on the mortality rate in those who are symptomatic with COVID-19, that there are large numbers of asymptomatic and minimally symptomatic cases, and that cases in the 100s, and potentially 1000s a day may happen within weeks given what is happening elsewhere. Testing will obviously be well above that. I am keen that we are able to diagnose them. Obviously at the start of this epidemic the highest reasonable worst case scenario for mortality was very high (in the MERS/SARS category); now for people under 65 I think it is likely the infected fatality rate is less than 1% and possibly quite a lot below.

So I hope this can be examined as soon as possible. If we cannot keep up with testing this will be a serious risk to public health.

Many thanks, and happy to discuss at any time

Chris

From: Maria Zambon

Sent: 28 February 2020 17:04

[See recipients listed above]