

Message

From: Harries, Jenny [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CB41E14F2B234DBEB666D05EF2623BC1-JHARRIES]
Sent: 21/02/2020 09:24:28
To: [Name Redacted]; [Name Redacted]; [Name Redacted]; [Name Redacted]
CC: Ruth Milton [Ruth.Milton@phe.gov.uk]
Subject: FW: Diamond Park cohort - IPC assurance

Dear both

Further to helpful discussions with **NR** and Ruth yesterday please see below a summarised description of what I believe to be happening with the cohort from the Diamond Princess – CMO has signalled he is content.

Key points for confirmation/attention:

1. The arrangements described at Arrowe Park were the ones I understand were under active consideration at the start of the week. Grateful if you could confirm these .
2. You will see that your approach to coach travel is supported ie no gloves, gowns etc BUT
3. You will also see that there is an expectation that paramedics will be fully kitted as they were on the previous coach trips for Wuhan repatriations. Whilst this may not be an absolute requirement I think it will be in line with what their own organisations are recommending, will be consistent with earlier and lower risk transportations, will ensure staff are immediately ready to manage patients who become ill en route when we recognise a higher risk of this occurring and simultaneously will ensure the public optic is not one suggesting a lowering of standards

The final point is the one I know John was going to pick up about an individual passenger who I understand from this morning's FCO call is due to join the repatriation following a period in hospital and a positive coronavirus diagnosis. His health status generally seemed unclear and I had not heard of this particular issue before. Recognising you are all working really hard, I would be grateful for a summary risk assessment and appropriate handling plan for this individual given the uncertainty of his clinical status at this point – I recognise that from the brief history we have he is likely to be lower risk than other passengers but I am also not clear what the plans for his onward care would be in the UK having reached Boscombe Down.

If there are any problems with the above please do let me know.

Happy to discuss between other meetings

Best wishes

Jenny

From: Whitty, Chris <Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 February 2020 22:43
To: Harries, Jenny <Jenny.Harries@dhsc.gov.uk>; Van Tam, Jonathan <Jonathan.VanTam@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Diamond Park cohort - IPC assurance

Thank you very much Jenny. Sounds very sensible.

Chris

From: Harries, Jenny <Jenny.Harries@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:34:03 PM
To: Whitty, Chris <Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk>; Van Tam, Jonathan <Jonathan.VanTam@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Diamond Park cohort - IPC assurance

Chris

You were keen to get assurance that those handling the Diamond Princess cohort recognised the different and significantly higher risk profile of their passengers/guests.

I have contributed to the Diamond Princess FCO and DHSC telecons, discussed directly with the PHE CCDC at Arrowe Park and linked with [Name Redacted] who is advising on the spec for the coach transfer (as well as luggage handling).

In summary:

1. I am very assured there is clear understanding by policy, response and frontline staff of the differential risk of this group of passengers. It has been made clear through all discussions that we *expect* positive testing in a handful of these passengers at least.
2. The Arrowe Park IPC arrangements have been stepped up accordingly. Changes include how rooms will be allocated, how shopping will get to residents (ie taken to each flat rather than have any individuals coming to a central area to collect items) and importantly upgraded day to day PPE arrangements. This was not yet fully confirmed at the time of my discussions but instead of WRFMs and good hand hygiene this would now be FFP3 masks, gloves and gowns for every contact with a quarantined family or unit
3. The coach trip advice previously employed but is stepped up in the fact that the paramedics are advised to be pre-kitted to immediately isolate any passenger who may become ill en route. Otherwise the following is true:
 1. ensuring that the passengers are well at point of arrival - mainly through reassurance from the accompanying clinical teams that no overt ill health problems had occurred during the flight
 2. any unwell passenger will be diverted into NHS care at that point.
 3. the passengers would be taken by coach that has onboard hygiene facilities direct from airhead to Arrowe Park.
 4. the passengers would be separated from the driver and accompanying paramedic by a distance of >2m by blocking off of an appropriate number of front row seats.
 5. passengers would wear surgical mask for the duration of the journey.

Risk to the driver and accompanying paramedic managed by a safe system of working in which the:

1. driver has no direct contact with the passengers and is at all times separated from them by a distance of >2m and is protected from droplet infection risk by virtue of the distance and mask wearing of the passengers. Therefore no specific additional PPE required due to existing minimisation of risk but also risks to performance of safe driving duties. Hand hygiene advice is appropriate and access to alcohol gel useful.
2. accompanying paramedic is also likewise not at risk if not called upon to attend to any passengers. I have requested the paramedic has appropriate (full) PPE for the journey. Wearing of an infectious disease appropriate ensemble continuously for ~4 hours Could be detrimental to performance and was not recommended previously even though they were worn on advice of the ambulance trust involved. It would seem very inappropriate to allow an optic where a step down in protection has been allowed between passenger cohorts from Wuhan and this one, even though the risks are acknowledged to be greater.

We are not recommending gloves for passengers or staff on the basis that these could become risk items if not used, changed or disposed of appropriately.

Please let me know if you have any concerns with these arrangements as there is still plenty of time to adjust the SOP.

Best wishes

Jenny



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I&S

This in box is not continuously monitored. If an urgent response is required please copy direct to my PA

Name Redacted

or use the contact numbers above.

During February 2020 I am working on the coronavirus incident and may need to reprioritise existing appointments and respond to non-incident correspondence later than usual for which my apologies in advance

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