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**From:** Harries, Jenny [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CB41E14F2B234DBEB666D05EF2623BC1-JHARRIES]  
**Sent:** 20/02/2020 22:34:03  
**To:** Whitty, Chris [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0b3ee62e0ca04e978730b14f9b416a1e-Whitty, Chr]; Van Tam, Jonathan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d29c846fc8fa4678b419c6f0dc3836f3-JVanTam]  
**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*