

Message

From: Harries, Jenny [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CB41E14F2B234DBEB666D05EF2623BC1-JHARRIES]
Sent: 20/02/2020 19:25:07
To: Ruth Milton [Ruth.Milton@phe.gov.uk]; [Name Redacted] [Name Redacted]
CC: IDWNCov [IDWNCov@phe.gov.uk]; [Name Redacted] [Name Redacted] Yvonne Doyle [Yvonne.Doyle@phe.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: IPC issues Boscombe to Arrowe Park

Thank you [NR]

I fully understand the rationale here and will have a (virtual) discussion with CMO/DCMO colleagues. I think there is no specific request – more, entirely appropriately, that given we know the attack rate in this cohort is currently around 20% - and unlike previous cohorts – we can anticipate cases arising in transit and in the UK. My understanding of the paramedic PPE attire on the previous coaches has been implemented by the ambulance service rather than at our request based on infectious disease risk – I think this matches Ruth's comments. However for this trip I do think the ability for paramedics to be immediately ready to manage a higher risk group of individuals on the trip is a valid and appropriate one and it would be difficult to justify lowering of the PPE standard from that used previously – albeit not at our request.

We had a discussion about gloves and the balance of benefit and risks.
Its good to see the advice for use of masks for passengers throughout the journey.

I will come back to confirm all angles of risk and management are shared asap.
Many thanks for the update (and of course for all the ongoing work more broadly across the Covid-19 response)
Best wishes
Jenny

From: Ruth Milton <Ruth.Milton@phe.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 February 2020 10:31
To: [Name Redacted] [Name Redacted] Harries, Jenny <Jenny.Harries@dhsc.gov.uk>
Cc: IDWNCov <IDWNCov@phe.gov.uk>; [Name Redacted] [Name Redacted] Yvonne Doyle <Yvonne.Doyle@phe.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: IPC issues Boscombe to Arrowe Park

Jenny,
It is my understanding that previously the drivers/coach companies have previously taken the advice re drivers being safe at the agreed distance and with no contact. However the paramedics may have chosen to wear full PPE throughout on the grounds that they wouldn't be able to don it in time should a passenger become acutely unwell – hence the images we saw on TV
Best wishes
Ruth

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Public Health
England

From: Name Redacted

Sent: 20 February 2020 10:24

To: jenny.harries@dhsc.gov.uk

Cc: IDWNCov; Name Redacted Name Redacted Yvonne Doyle

Subject: IPC issues Boscombe to Arrowe Park

Jenny,

We had a brief discussion yesterday where you suggested that there were a number of infection prevention measures that DHSC / CMOs office expected to be in place for the coach leg of the evacuation plan from Japan.

I'd be grateful for your thoughts on what is required.

In outline I believe that we are:

- 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.

My view of risk to the driver and accompanying paramedic is that a safe system of working for them is that:

- 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. I am loathe to suggest any form of PPE as this may interfere with performance of safe driving duties - and I do not believe that it increases their safety. 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 would be happy that the paramedic has appropriate PPE ready to hand to use if needed. I would be concerned that wearing an infectious disease appropriate ensemble continuously for ~4 hours would be detrimental to performance and not desirable.

I fully appreciate that there are other views; but before taking this forward further I'd be grateful for your thoughts and feedback from your colleagues.

Many thanks for your help,

NR

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