

containment is unlikely via these policies. Countries with less effective health care systems are less likely to be able to contain sustained outbreaks.

8. Population-wide reduction in contact rates, for example through the mass closure of schools, will impact transmission regardless of the importance of asymptomatic transmission but the potential effectiveness of such measures is unclear.

Epidemic timescales

9. The overall duration of epidemics within countries are likely to be longer than for a typical influenza pandemic given the current estimates of a higher reproduction number and longer serial interval.
10. Modelling from several groups suggests that the epidemic in Wuhan can be expected to peak in the next one to three weeks (by the end of February).
11. Cases in the rest of China might be expected to peak around 2 months later than this. The importation risk in other countries is likely to increase as the number of cases grows in the rest of China.
12. If the epidemiological parameters in the UK are comparable to China, then a peak in case numbers might be expected approximately 2-4 months after the establishment of sustained transmission.
13. It is a realistic probability that there is already sustained transmission in the UK, or that it will become established in the coming weeks.

Relative risk of epidemics in other countries

14. The relative risk of cases in countries outside China has been shown to be correlated with air passenger levels. Countries with a higher volume of travel to and from China have been more likely to experience cases. Whilst it is to be expected that this will continue to be the case, transport patterns are changing, so the relative risk is expected to as well.

Case Fatality Ratio (CFR)

15. The CFR is the proportion of people with clinical symptoms who die. It is not homogenous across groups and will likely depend on several factors such as an individual's age and co-morbidities. It will also vary between countries, especially depending on the effectiveness of healthcare.
16. Precise estimates of the CFR in China are not possible because of both under-ascertainment of cases and the time lag between clinical cases and deaths (the average