

Message

**From:** Name Redacted [redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 05/02/2020 18:06:38  
**To:** Atherton, Frank (HSS - Chief Medical Officer) [frank.atherton@gov.wales]; Catherine.Calderwood@gov.scot; Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk  
**CC:** Whitty, Chris [Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk]  
**Subject:** CMO coronavirus briefing for DsPH

Hi all

As promised on the UK CMOs call earlier, here is a rough write up of Chris' call with the Directors of Public Health.

Best wishes

NR

**CMO coronavirus briefing for DsPH**

**Fri 31 Jan 2020**

**0900-0930**

- CMO outlined currently epidemiology of outbreak and described two scenarios and how there is the potential for a situation in which we would move from containment to mitigation (but this is not the case now). We are currently using pandemic flu for reasonable worst case scenario planning

**Q&A:**

- CMO confirmed that the pandemic flu model was being used for the time being.
- CMO confirmed that we do not yet know if surviving infection protects against re-infection
- CMO confirms NERVTAG will issue advice on treatment options (currently considering options)
- CMO agrees that planning for mitigation now is wise

- CMO updated on the plane bringing people back from China and changes to geographical case definition and clinical case definition

DCMO Name Redacted [redacted] took over as Chair

**Q&A:**

- DCMO agrees to communicate to Comms colleagues that detail of comms must be appropriate to listening environment
- Callers flag universities, boarding schools, Chinese community in UK as recipient groups for comms, and concern for community cohesion (comms to general public)
- Specific request from the North East for information for the public about 'quarantine' and better centrally led comms in relation to the housing of repatriated individuals in the Wirral and choice of location - DCMO commits to pick up in another call and flag this with DHSC colleagues
- DCMO commits to share information imparted in the call with the participants via email (prompted by questions about the changes to case definitions)



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

Name Redacted [redacted]

Head of Office to the Chief Medical Officer

39 Victoria St, London, SW1H 0EU

Name Redacted [redacted].gov.uk

T: [redacted] I&S

@CMO\_England