

Message

From: Ferguson, Neil M [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4CCF49B137D2446189EA47B5112F5103-FERGNM]
Sent: 27/02/2020 10:07:29
To: Van Tam, Jonathan [Jonathan.VanTam@dhsc.gov.uk]; SPI-M [SPI-M@dhsc.gov.uk]; Baguelin, Marc J M [I&S]; Jamie.LopezBernal2@phe.gov.uk; paul.birrell [I&S]; paul.birrell@phe.gov.uk; [NR]@phe.gov.uk; Daniela.DeAngelis [I&S]; john.edmunds [I&S]; [NR]@phe.gov.uk; Nick.Gent@phe.gov.uk; [I&S]; ian.hall [I&S]; mattjkeeling [I&S]; [NR]@phe.gov.uk; jonathan.read@ [I&S]; Riley, Steven [I&S]; Chris.robertson [I&S]; [NR]@phe.gov.uk; Mark.Woolhouse [I&S]; c.jewell [I&S]; graham.medley [I&S]
CC: Allen, Paul [Paul.Allen@dhsc.gov.uk]; [NR] [NR]@dhsc.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: Official sensitive: Sporting events

- I now believe it is >95% certain that transmission is already established here. From that perspective, holding the 6 Nations matches will make no difference. But if HMG wants to adopt the optimistic assumption that transmission has not established itself here, then the question to ask is how much will the 6 Nations matches increase travel to the UK from Europe. I suspect not by much, given the large daily volumes of travellers anyway. In which case the impact on importation risk of cancelling will be fairly marginal.
- I don't think there is any evidence that mass gatherings like rugby matches increase transmission. Transmission is likely via close contact for an extended period of time— even if someone attends a match, there are a limited number of people they are close to for an extended period – their immediate neighbours in the seating area. This view has some support from analysis of transmission on planes. Going to the pub to watch the match likely poses as much if not more risk.

Best,

Neil

From: Van Tam, Jonathan <Jonathan.VanTam@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 February 2020 09:53

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: RE: Official sensitive: Sporting events

Dear everyone,

Apologies for the extra work. Politically this is heating up. I fully realise you can't model this in time allowed but I would like as a very minimum your views on a Likert Scale of "unlikely to make any difference" at one end" to major impact really bad idea" at the other. And with a broad reasoning to support the view. I may have to brief Ministers later today.

JVT

From: SPI-M <SPI-M@dhsc.gov.uk>

Sent: 27 February 2020 09:40

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: Official sensitive: Sporting events

Morning all,

JVT has asked for your views **today** on the impact of holding 6 Nations matches on:

- Risk of importing cases of Covid-19 to the UK, if not established in the UK by then
- Risk of spreading Covid-19, if it is established in the UK by then

The next matches are:

07/03 England v Wales

08/03 Scotland v France

14/03 Wales v Scotland

14/03 **Italy v England**

14/03 France v Ireland

Thanks in advance,

NR



Dr NR

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NR

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