

2. Face masks. Carys has chased Frank again today for a view on face masks. I have seen something from Rob which says: *'There is no consensus on the effect of Rt of the use of facemasks for the public, but it is estimated to produce a reduction of between zero and 0.3. But there may be dangers of symptomatic people believing they do not need to self-isolate if they wear a facemask.'*

I mentioned to you on the phone that it feels as though the schedule for this week will develop something like this (avoiding as much as I can the dreaded 'supposition' I was so rude about earlier).

Tuesday	Call with Michael Gove Draft of Cabinet papers for you and Jeremy
Wednesday	Cobr(M) (supposition) Cabinet papers circulated UK Gvt announcement on continuation of current restrictions (again supposition) with further announcement to follow on Sunday
Thursday	Cabinet I'm wondering if you should do the press conference on Thursday instead of Friday (if the Wednesday suppositions are correct).
Friday	alternative date for press conference

Question from the comms side is going to be – do we go hell for leather on our plans on Thursday / Friday (ahead of UK Gvt) or do we do something Sunday (again ahead of UK Gvt) or do we go for Monday (after UK Gvt).

Whatever we do, I think we can be more confident now that we aren't heading into a big collision course with them (certainly in the short term) and that is obviously a good thing for a number of reasons. We will need to retain the 'Welsh solutions to Welsh circumstances' approach, particularly in relation to schools where it feels very likely we will end up in a different place.

A great deal of the 'post this week' situation relies, as we know, upon the track, trace, test conversation..... I don't need to get into that now.

Hope that helps.

J

(4th May 2020)