

Wales Technical Advisory Cell: COVID 19 Brief – As of 23/03/2020 (THIS IS NOT YET SAGE ADVICE)

Advice

1. Even with recently agreed control measures in place, **TAC considers the risk for the epidemic to exceed NHS capacity in the coming weeks to be high.**
2. Current models show that London will be overwhelmed in 7-10 days and Wales to be 7 days behind London.
3. **TAC agrees** with SAGE assessment: that there is significant uncertainty that current measures are sufficient to bring the outbreak within the capacity of the NHS.
4. **TAC recommends** an immediate 'lockdown and release' approach is considered as the next range of measures to be introduced:
 - A period of 'lockdown' with the objective of bringing the R number as low as possible in order to suppress the transmission of the virus; followed by
 - A period of 'release' where the most stringent controls can be relaxed and other social distancing measures 'pulsed' on and off over a period of time, maintaining R below 1. Release will require careful choreography with the testing strategy.
5. **TAC recommends** that the lockdown strategy will need to be iterative, based on demand.
6. Due to the lag time in observable effects of these control measures, TAC does not consider that there is an opportunity to measure the effect in other European countries before a decision is made.