

Message

From: [NR] /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D21258C9254E4E32942F15C21EE78F6 [NR]
Sent: 24/11/2020 12:35:18 PM
To: [NR] @cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
CC: [NR] @cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; katie.waring [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=user68068d8f]; [NR] xchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6b102717503f443580153e22c8a5da58-HStrain]; [NR] p=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=34640d32e98e43cab96909b85f04ec81; [NR] Emily Clarke [emily.clarke1@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Emma.Payne [emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; [NR] [NR] @cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; [NR] [NR]
[NR]
[NR]
Subject: RE: CMO Assessment of Christmas - Timeline for today

Hi all
Please see below for the agreed UK CMOs views in red.
Thanks
[NR]

UK CMOs views in red on the Cabinet Office paper.

- Between 23 and 27 December, you can meet in an exclusive Christmas bubble composed of three households. Existing support bubbles in England count as one household. (There is agreement that bubbles can be a maximum of three households. Given the different starting points on the definitions of bubbles, it may be prudent that the decision on the definition of households in relation to bubbles can be adjusted nationally. The CMO for England is content for a single support bubble to be considered one household for this period in the English context.)
- During this time you can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble. (Agree)
- You should travel to meet your Christmas bubble and return home within the designated window (23-27 December), unless travelling to/from Northern Ireland. (Agree but only with the change outlined below)
- You can meet your Christmas bubble in your home, a place of worship (Agree) or essential retail (The UK CMOs are cautious about this, especially if it results in large groups) (in other settings you should continue to follow rules applicable in your nation). (Agree)
- When outside your home with your Christmas bubble, you should follow national gathering limits. (Agree)
- You can continue to meet people outside your bubble, subject to your area's gathering limits. (Agree)

Duration

Duration: we propose to apply these rules between 23-27 December based on advice that extending the window further will likely increase transmission and enforcement risks, particularly on New Years' Eve. While we would encourage people to travel within that window, we intend to enable people to travel a day early (and stay in a hotel) if reasonably necessary.

The UK CMOs believe this should in exceptional circumstances only.

CEV guidance

You are still able to form a Christmas bubble if you are clinically extremely vulnerable but it does involve greater risks for you. You will minimise your risk of infection if you limit social contact with people that you do not live with.

Forming a Christmas bubble is a personal choice and should be balanced against the increased risk of infection. If you do decide to form a Christmas bubble you can take extra precautions set out in Guidance for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable at Christmas. Others in your bubble should be mindful of your increased risks and be extra vigilant in the days before you get together. [1]

The UK CMOs agree to the principle that CEV individuals can form bubbles in the same way as the wider population, but that there should be strong wording on how increasing social contact increases risk, and CEV people need to weigh up that risk when deciding how to spend Christmas. The UK CMOs were generally content with the language in the guidance but this should be finalised between officials.

From: [redacted] NR [redacted]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 November 2020 12:02

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: Re: CMO Assessment of Christmas - Timeline for today

Hi [redacted] NR [redacted]

Has there been any movement on this?

Many thanks,

[redacted] NR [redacted]

On Tue, 24 Nov 2020 at 09:33, [redacted] NR [redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk> wrote:

I have 3 out of the 4 nations agreed on positions/wording so hopefully will have something soon.

On CEV – it wasn't included in the briefing note (attached) so the conversation was fairly high level. They couldn't read everything that was sent just before the meeting but we had a look at the CEV wording in the guidance which they were generally content with but they will leave the final agreement on the wording to officials.

Thanks

NR

From: NR <[redacted]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 November 2020 09:13

NR

NR

Emily Clarke <emily.clarke1@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

NR

NR

Subject: Re: CMO Assessment of Christmas - Timeline for today

Morning CMO/DCMO team,

Have we had an agreed readout from CMOs yet?

And also noting Katie's point on CEV, whether this is any further forward?

With thanks,

NR

On Mon, 23 Nov 2020 at 19:09, Katie Waring <katie.waring@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi **NR**

Jenny said she was also fixing for CEV to be raised at the meeting and hopefully alignment on advice to the CEV confirmed between the 4 nations. We'd be grateful if you can cover that in the read out (assuming it was raised).

Thanks

NR

Deputy Director,

Shielding, vulnerable and disproportionately impacted groups

COVID Taskforce

Cabinet Office

I&S

On Mon, 23 Nov 2020 at 19:01, **NR** <NR@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

NR - good speaking earlier.

Noting your point that on the issue of households and that DA CMOs were actually not concerned about the support bubble setup as exists in England, but instead the extended household model as exists in Wales/Scotland. A detailed readout that sets this out feels like it could be a really useful way of helping to secure additional buy-in on a potentially flexible model applying across UK.

If you could pry an agreed readout from all four CMOs this evening that we can circulate to policy officials that would be really helpful.

Thanks,

NR

On Mon, 23 Nov 2020 at 17:09, **NR**, [@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:NR@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)> wrote:

Evening: **NR**

We're keen to go back to DAs this evening if possible with another call to talk through a readout of CMOs discussion. Was going to propose a call at 1830. Would you be able to get us a readout in advance of then?

Not much value in setting up a call without this.

Thanks,

NR

On Mon, 23 Nov 2020 at 15:53, **NR**, [@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:NR@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)> wrote:

Apologies attaching guidance alongside the proposal here, so both can be viewed in tandem.

Best,

NR

On Mon, 23 Nov 2020 at 15:48, **NR**, [@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:NR@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)> wrote:

Afternoon **NR**

Ahead of the 1600 call between four CMOs, please find attached latest policy proposal. This builds on X-UK official level conversations this afternoon.

Grateful if this could be circulated with DA CMOs straight away - apologies...

To be aware, full agreement remains outstanding on the common definition of a household, as well as what is/is not permitted for Christmas bubbles to do in wider settings outside the home, and DAs are yet to develop a wider care homes policy.

Best,

NR

On Mon, 23 Nov 2020 at 11:42, NR <NR@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks for this NR Appreciated. We've got a call at 1230-1330 with DAs to hopefully resolve final policy issues and will send up what we can as soon as possible thereafter, but likely to be around 1530 I suspect.

Grateful if your office could be on standby and share with DA CMOs thereafter.

As I think most CMOs were on the Saturday call, they should hopefully have the useful context of the ministers' discussion around which to frame this.

Best,

NR

On Mon, 23 Nov 2020 at 10:22, NR <NR@dhsc.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi NR

We have put a UK CMOs meeting in for 16.00. As Chris said over the weekend, on Christmas they will keep their advice high level and stick to broad principles.

We will have to do CEV separately as Jenny can't do the 16.00 call.

Thanks

NR

From: NR <NR@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 November 2020 09:12

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: CMO Assessment of Christmas - Timeline for today

Morning CMO/DCMO's office,

In line with the call CMO was on with CDL and DA First Ministers on Saturday, we are aiming to finalise a xmas proposal with DA officials early this afternoon.

DA First Ministers are keen to take this package to their respective cabinets tomorrow morning, and were also clear they valued an assessment of impact from their CMOs.

This consequently means we are looking to get a final proposal to you by 1600 today at the latest. It would then require CMO to engage with his counterparts in the DAs after that and relay views later this evening.

An outstanding question as to whether the proposal on care homes is wrapped into the same call, or done in parallel through DCMO and her counterparts. This again though would still be on a timeline over this afternoon/this evening.

We unfortunately don't really have much flexibility with this timeline to reach a final position for announcement by tomorrow afternoon, so would appreciate early confirmation this is doable your side, or to flag any major obstacles you foresee in making this work.

It would be helpful for us to relay proposed timelines to DA policy officials on a call at 1230 today as well, so grateful for clarity this morning if possible.

Do call if helpful to discuss.

With thanks,

NR

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NR

C-19 Taskforce
Cabinet Secretariat

E: **NR** ncabinetoffice.gov.uk

M: **I&S**

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