

TEO MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		4 Nations Call with CDL Covid		
DATE:	19 Dec 2020 11 am	NOTE WRITTEN BY: Karen Pearson Attendees updated by Deirdre Griffith		
VENUE:	virtual			FM Advisers: dFM Advisers:
LIST OF ATTENDEES included: First Minister deputy First Minister Junior Minister Lyons Robin Swann, Minister of Health Michael Gove, CDL First Minister Scotland First Minister Wales Deirdre Griffith, PPS FM UK CMO Lourda Geoghegan DCMO				
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		<p>The CDL meeting opened at 11.00. FM and dFM, Minister Swann, CMO and CSA attended. JM Lyons attended.</p> <p>Main points:</p> <p>Cab sub committee has met to consider the new variant.</p> <p>Slides on emerging evidence. 250 per 100,000. Rate of increase faster than before. Largely driven by cases in England. Increase of 50% in a week, driven by South and East.</p> <p>NI cases have risen steadily, Wales very quickly, Scotland rates are lower and steadier.</p>		

	<p>In England, rapid growth in London, South East, and East of England. 450 per 100,000 in London. Doubled in a week. London approach peak similar to N/W of England.</p> <p>Thames estuary very high rates. Growth continued through national restrictions and move into tier 3. Pockets with even higher rates. Basildon for instance over 900 per 100,000.</p> <p>Issues in South Wales.</p> <p>Younger demographics, including for 10 + year olds. Case rates in 60 + associated with hospitalisations.</p> <p>England, daily hospital admissions have exceeded November peak.</p> <p>Seeing more people going into hospital in certain areas. Areas exceeding previous peaks.</p> <p>Deaths patterns following this trajectory.</p> <p>Patrick Vallance reported that the variant has over 20 different mutations. Variant now makes up over 60% of the London cases.</p> <p>Present everywhere to some degree.</p> <p>Does it increase transmission? Frequency of its growth, evidence of genetic analysis, laboratory analysis. Clear indication of substantial increased transmissibility, and will put pressure on R.</p> <p>Evidence suggests no change in pattern of disease. Health outcomes likely to be the same. More work on this.</p> <p>On immune recognition, some theoretical basis for this but no evidence. More work on this over 7 to 10 days.</p> <p>Novel variant has rapidly become the dominant variant and driving growth. Will have spread across the UK but in lower numbers.</p> <p>CDL noted the following. Need to take action over and above existing steps.</p> <p>PM will announce steps for England later today. This will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tier 3 areas in East and South East of England will go into an enhanced tier 4. Similar to November lockdown. Non essential retail, close contact economy, stay at
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	<p>home. Christmas easements will not be allowed in these areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rest of England, tiers will be maintained. Messaging will be stay local. Christmas easements will be for Christmas day only.- New variant is running rampant in tier 4. But other pockets have seeded.- Want to understand if issues in South Wales are the same variant or something new.- PM will announce at 4pm and there could be some changes to the overall package. Some changes will come in at midnight.- Keeping places of worship open this time. <p>SG FM responded.</p> <p>Sobering but helpful presentation.</p> <p>Is the new variant travelling faster? Will other areas see the same pattern if steps are not taken? Cabinet will convene later this afternoon to consider. May not be identical to England but there will be significant overlap.</p> <p>WG FM responded.</p> <p>New variant in South Wales. And other pockets. Will consider further this morning. What will happen with business support? Non essential relies on this time of the year.</p> <p>Will there be Barnett consequential from England's tier 4? Is there a case for grasping the nettle and moving on a full tier four lockdown for England and Wales?</p> <p>FM responded.</p> <p>Executive has decided the way forward from 26th December. On the immune system and vaccines, no evidence of impact so far but will it impact the vaccine programme?</p> <p>dFM responded.</p> <p>Effectiveness of vaccine? Do we need to discuss travel? Need to understand the new strain situation for us.</p> <p>Minister Swann asked about standard public health basics and messaging about those, are they still the right basics?</p> <p>PV responded to Ministers' questions:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase transmissibility has become clearer during the week, and science has become more robust. Better estimates of how much more transmissible in coming days. Consensus from experts over the UK.- Principles remain the same – reduce contacts and follow public health advice. Magnitude of the effect of the basics is important – need to double down.- Theoretical worry about the vaccine but nothing seen to support that so far. More work. For the future, viruses will mutate and different vaccines will be needed in due course. <p>CDL responded on business support. Nothing further agreed so far but will be discussing with HMT. If there is anything it will apply UK wide.</p> <p>On travel, people in tier 4 will be asked to stay home and not travel. May be covered in regulations as well as messaging.</p> <p>On a full tier 4 for England and Wales, Cabinet sub committee feels this is not yet necessary and hope that measures will help flatten the curve. But will need to keep under review. Will need to be able to respond quickly.</p> <p>May need to meet over the Christmas holidays. Please keep each other up to date.</p> <p>Minister Swann asked if the variant has been seen anywhere else. PV noted a very small number of cases in a small number of countries. Looks as if it has arisen in the UK.</p> <p>Meeting ends, 11.34</p>
ACTION POINTS:	None