

Message

From: Geoghegan, Lourda [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=05E7907F983F4CDB97BE684A63AC1C37-LOURDA GEOGHEGAN D]
Sent: 19/12/2020 12:01:46 PM
To: McBride, Michael [michael.mcbride@health-ni.gov.uk]; Young, Ian (Prof.) [ian.young2@health-ni.gov.uk]; Chada, Naresh [naresh.chada@health-ni.gov.uk]
Subject: CDL/FM Call this AM
Importance: High

Michael, Ian, Naresh

Am just off this mourning's call - FM, dFM and Minister were on, Ian I think was also on?

Short update on the changing epidemiology -

In S, SE England and London - disease activity increasing significantly despite Tier 3 restrictions, up by 50% in some areas within last week, seeing growth in younger age groups (10-14 and 15-19 yo) and also in 60+ age group of concern, hospital activity increasing considerably;

In S Wales also - similar pocket of increased disease activity and hospital pressures;

P Vallance gave short update on new variant - increased transmissibility - Y; impacting clinical disease pattern - N; evidence of impact on immune response or vaccine response - N (as yet, experiments and scientific work is continuing in this regard);

CDL advised that PM will announce at 4 pm this afternoon following measures for England -

S/SE/ London - new enhanced Tier 4 restrictions, to come in at midnight tonight, similar lockdown to that in Nov, strong stay at home message, closure of all non-essential retail and personal services, Christmas arrangements will go - people asked not to from/extend bubbles further beyond what they already have in place, churches will remain open for worship in a COVID secure environment, travel restricted to within Tier 4 areas (into regulation);

Rest of England - tiers as they currently are, strong emphasis on 'stay at home', 3x household bubbles for Christmas Day only;

The above is subject to ongoing discussion and may be refined through the day prior to the PM's announcement.

Sootland's FM advised her cabinet are meeting this afternoon to consider and discuss this update;

Wales FM - confirmed new variant found in pocket of high disease activity in S Wales, will consider this morning's update further;

FM - advised of our restrictions coming in on 26th Dec;

dFM - commented on concern and had Q re potential impact on vaccine programme;

Minister - has a query for PV if this strain has been seen elsewhere/ other countries, PV advised UK is sequencing more that other countries but to date are aware of 1 x isolate each in Australia and Gibraltar and 3 x isolates in Denmark - appears so far that this has arisen in the England (UK) and spread to other places, may change as more is known about the variant.

Lourda