

9.38

2 March 2020

FW Intro

① Minutes

Agreed?

Yes

② M.A.

DOH Coronavirus

COBRA meeting - FW/dFW, DOH + CMO.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

DOH

Coronavirus

1st positive case in NI.

Process - initial complete.

Travel to affected area.

Pos. cases in ROI, Wales + Scotland.

Advice to public - same as before

PHA - kicked in

1-3 ILED tests in NI

1 pos

Bfs Virology Lab

Legis - other mins + colleagues

Legis through Westminster.

COVID 19 - notifiable disease

GPs legally required to report.

Conf call on Sat with RCT
Relationship / communication - sound.
PHA - HSC in RCT.
Only matter of time before more cases.

CMD Some develop^m in England - concerning.
Most cases - travel related.
But now - some person-to-person
transmission.
Get right info to public - facts rather
than fear
Reinforce message.
RCT - 2 months - Apr (vaccine)?
Cabinet office pandemic plan planning

DOH Name in each dept for coronavirus
info
TEO - using civil contingencies
arrang^m - Castle Buildings.
Supplement from next week, escalat^e
over next few weeks as required.
Looking for volunteers.
Working with Cabinet office (ISO)?

DAERA Treatment / vaccine?

CMD No vaccine yet.
Vaccine global experts working.
Drugs testing to check if they work
Vaccine develop^m.
No vaccine this year.

Still in containⁱⁿ

Community transmission - impact on public services

Supportive care

Most people - minor illness - like cold

98% will get better

5% hospital care - anti-biotics etc supportive treatⁱⁿ.

More severe version

Case fatality rate - could be 2-3%

lot of info we don't know.

Continue to plan - but balanced approach - accurate info.

DE

Schools system

Strong advice - PHE lead, need to give clear info. People returning from risk areas, good hygiene.

Advice

Cancellation of trips

5 school ~~sports~~ ^{boarding} facilities - pupils from far east - travel risk

Some parents travelling to see children

Ventilation facilities in England - ramping up?

Use time wisely to prepare ventilation, beds provision?

CMD

Tough decisions

H+SC Boards / H Trusts

co-ordinate - single cases, rooms, side rooms.

Swine flu - train staff to support outside intensive care.

Regular ongoing work to test systems.

Prioritization - clinical decisions, ethical issues.

Some schools currently in Italy, some planning trips - advice schools to contact PHA.

Poss dedicated line for schools.

DE Pref - over-cautious rather than too blasé.

CMD Some schools closing - not our advice at present. Need consistent message.

DOF Contain^m phase now - benefits of being an island. Particular measures to give us advantage?
Peak in April, fall off in summer?

CMD Modelling - UK/ROI - widespread. Contain^m
Not inevitable.
Need to be prepared for weeks/months of transmissible virus - v open world.
Peak could last for 15 weeks.
50% + of population could be affected - but lot of minor cases, v mild

Planning - 50%+ infected.

Other parts of world [] deaths.

Need to plan + prepare for all eventualities.

DOH []

DOH Perception - China - mortality rate higher than reported. Italy - much higher mortality rate - China under-reporting.

CWO China - v different approach to SARS. Changing case definition. Italy - looks like higher death rate. Lot of cases not confirmed - so confirmed cases / confirmed deaths seems like higher rate.

DFE Proportionate / balanced - v important. Cancellation of events - impact on economy. Judge^m will have to be made. Any sense of time.

DOH HI [] 22 March. Numbers limit - no decision yet.

CWO Must be guided by science - benefit of cancellation. Still in contain^m phase. See what impact decisions wd have.

Views not like plan.
~~So~~ Cancelling events may blunt spread
but make peak last longer.
Social costs massive.

DPE Power to close schools but not further
ed - want that incl. in Bill.

APM Concern - different advice Nth + Sth,
Things being held back.
We shd all refer to same advice
Advice in Sth tomorrow.

DOH Working on something this week
- St Patrick's Day.

Urgent Oral Statement this am.
DAERA speech - take time! We
have to go to ORRA.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Fm Suspend meeting to 12.00
so Fm / AFM / DOTH can go to COBRA.

12.05

Reconvene