

Message

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Sent: 09/06/2020 10:02:11 AM
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Subject: RE: 1230 presser - urgent

Agreed. I think Vaughan's oral summary was defensible but I think releasing the paper at this stage is a hostage to fortune

Lee

From: Mason, Toby (OFM - Communications) <Toby.Mason@gov.wales>
Sent: 09 June 2020 10:00
To: Runeckles, Jane (OFM - Special Adviser) <Jane.Runeckles@gov.wales>; Jenkins, Clare (OFM - Special Adviser) <Clare.Jenkins010@gov.wales>
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Subject: 1230 presser - urgent
Importance: High

I'm really concerned about the handling of the 1230 press conference following the 9am call. I don't believe that any announcement beyond a position on non-mandatory face coverings, following the WHO change of position, is deliverable in comms terms in a way that will not raise very significant questions from a large number of stakeholders and the public, including those brought up at the meeting.

As raised at the meeting, the TAG paper will bring with it a huge number of queries and demands for us to take a policy position with really major implications, like provision of medical grade masks to vulnerable groups. Can we distil the announcement to a series of bullet points now and work on those urgently, and agree with MHSS that any questions beyond these (and specifically on the use of medical grade masks) will be pushed beyond today to the more detailed sectoral guidance, developed with stakeholders, and that the full TAG report will also be published once there is a clearer position on all the issues.

How about this:

**Following the change in advice from the WHO on face coverings at the end of last week, we have asked our Technical Advisory Group to look again at the position in Wales.*

**A homemade or purchased face covering might reduce the transmission of SARS-CoV2 from one person to another if made, worn, handled and disposed of properly. Scientific evidence is not robust on the benefits of face coverings, with mainly observational findings supporting the role in preventing transmission. It should be noted that this has not been extensively studied to date, and further studies are expected.*

**Face coverings should be considered when in settings where other control measures or other control methods for reducing exposure are not effective and other measures such as social distancing remain of critical importance and should not be relaxed when wearing a face covering.*

Following careful consideration, we have decided that we will, from Monday, strongly recommend to the public that face coverings should be used in situations where social distancing measures can be more difficult to achieve, for example public transport. This will **not be mandatory, but we will encourage people to do this for the benefit of themselves and others.*

Toby Mason

Cyfarwyddwr Cyfathrebu / Director of Communications

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