

This week....

For my own purposes as much as yours I thought it might be helpful if I just write down some of the different permutations of this week.

There are a plethora of documents that are being produced for you / Cabinet for Thursday in regard to the next review. Helpful to consider those against the 'modelling for England' timelines I sent through earlier (11th May, 1st June, 1st July & 15th August). The basic conclusions from the advice are that:

- we retain the current regulations as they are;
- prepare plans to move incrementally out of lockdown restrictions and put in place guidance and protocols to adapt to a 'new normal';
 - prepare for potential easements from 28th May (1st June) (subject to continued monitoring of R, etc and feedback from LAs, TUs, business, etc;
 - phased reopening of open spaces for community use, relax number of times allowed for exercise to support this;
 - phased reopening of household waste & recycling centres;
 - phased reopening of libraries;
 - develop protocols and guidance to encourage safe economic activity & prioritising work outdoors.
- Other phased easements to fully explored for the next review (28th May) are intended to be:
 - Education and childcare settings;
 - Public transport
 - Gradual increase of non-Covid related NHS activity;
 - How 'recreation' may be opened up (golf, etc....)
 - Businesses not currently allowed to open.

I haven't had a chance to check (but I will) whether that means they are suggesting no extension of school opening to be considered until 28th May review date in which case it would be closer to the end of June before we look at bringing more children back. This may be the case as some of the modelling I have seen suggests schools have a bigger impact on R than any of the other interventions suggested above.

There is extensive paperwork around this but I'll work with the officials tomorrow on what exactly it would be useful to bring to Cabinet. I'll also sort out inviting Frank / Rob / Lawyer to the meeting.

There are obvious questions about speed / phasing from the above but the two outstanding things for me relate to:

1. Two metre rule. Unclear what SAGE has been asked to look at with regard to this for UK Gvt. It may just be to do with public transport but that isn't clear. Is clear that they are looking at it. My fun fact of the day: *6 secs at 1m is equivalent risk to 30 secs at 2m.*

2. Face masks. Carys has chased Frank again today for a view on face masks. I have seen something from Rob which says: *'There is no consensus on the effect of Rt of the use of facemasks for the public, but it is estimated to produce a reduction of between zero and 0.3. But there may be dangers of symptomatic people believing they do not need to self-isolate if they wear a facemask.'*

I mentioned to you on the phone that it feels as though the schedule for this week will develop something like this (avoiding as much as I can the dreaded 'supposition' I was so rude about earlier).

Tuesday	Call with Michael Gove Draft of Cabinet papers for you and Jeremy
Wednesday	Cobr(M) (supposition) Cabinet papers circulated UK Gvt announcement on continuation of current restrictions (again supposition) with further announcement to follow on Sunday
Thursday	Cabinet I'm wondering if you should do the press conference on Thursday instead of Friday (if the Wednesday suppositions are correct).
Friday	alternative date for press conference

Question from the comms side is going to be – do we go hell for leather on our plans on Thursday / Friday (ahead of UK Gvt) or do we do something Sunday (again ahead of UK Gvt) or do we go for Monday (after UK Gvt).

Whatever we do, I think we can be more confident now that we aren't heading into a big collision course with them (certainly in the short term) and that is obviously a good thing for a number of reasons. We will need to retain the 'Welsh solutions to Welsh circumstances' approach, particularly in relation to schools where it feels very likely we will end up in a different place.

A great deal of the 'post this week' situation relies, as we know, upon the track, trace, test conversation..... I don't need to get into that now.

Hope that helps.

J

(4th May 2020)