

SPI-M-O: Consensus view on Covid-19

Date: 20th March 2020.

1. Nowcasting and forecasting of the current situation in the UK suggests that the doubling time of cases accruing in ICU is short, ranging from 3 to 5 days.
2. It is very likely that we will see ICU capacity in London breached by the end of the month, even if additional measures are put in place today.
3. The rest of the UK is 1-2 weeks behind London. In the absence of additional measures being put into place in the next few days, it is likely that we will breach ICU capacity in other regions.
4. Any measures enacted would take 2-3 weeks to have an impact on ICU admissions; school closures will take 1-2 weeks longer.
5. The observed rapid increase in ICU admissions is consistent with a higher reproduction number than 2.4 previously estimated and modelled; we cannot rule out it being higher than 3.
6. The current doubling time may be higher than expected in the longer term, if there is appreciable nosocomial transmission resulting in high prevalence in health care workers and a greater risk of transmission to vulnerable patients.
7. If the current ICU demand is being driven largely by nosocomial transmission and increased transmission to vulnerable patients and this process is separate from transmission in the general population then it will not be influenced in the short-term by current measures.
8. Any measures enacted would take 2-3 weeks to have an impact on ICU admissions; school closures will take 1-2 weeks longer.
9. If the higher reproduction number is representative of the longer term, then it is likely that additional measures will be required to bring it below one and prevent exponential increase of ICU admission.
10. It is not possible to meaningfully model the impact of additional measures at present, due to the huge uncertainty around the current epidemiological picture; impact of interventions already enacted; and impact of the additional measures. We therefore cannot say whether

rolling them out nationwide would allow us to avoid ICU capacity being breached in areas outside London. However, it will increase the likelihood of this.