

WELSH GOVERNMENT

COVID19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

05.06.2020 8.30-9.30am

Skype details in diary marker

REF Objective Connect Folder: "TAC Papers 2020.06.05"

Outstanding Actions

SC to draft PHW epidemiological report for Friday or Monday's TAG
SC to invite DJ to join PHW surveillance cell meeting to link in wastewater data flows
RO & Water policy colleagues to approach CMO to discuss a wider environmental strategy, including NRW
AJ and SC to pick breaking positivity down by separate groups of people up with RHowe offline as well as look at providing a figure for expected lab turnaround times.
AJ to check with PHW colleagues if we there will be real-time data flows from the contact tracing system.
RO to approach WBS and ask why the PHE seroprevalence study no longer includes Wales data and if it should be captured in the CMO Report. It may also be worth contacting the author of the report.

Outstanding actions

- **RO** to approach WBS and ask why the PHE seroprevalence study no longer includes Wales data and if it should be captured in the CMO Report. It may also be worth contacting the author of the report.
Actioned
- **AJ** to check with PHW colleagues if we there will be real-time data flows from the contact tracing system. – **ongoing action**
- **SC** to invite **DJ** to join PHW surveillance cell meeting to link in wastewater data flows **to action**
5.6.2020

2.1 Update from PHW on ongoing work

PHW are happy to offer an update at a granular level mindful that minutes are published.
PHW and Cardiff agreed to reflect on papers from SAGE 4.6.2020 immunology and

Actions (Agenda item for TAG meeting on Wednesday 10 June 2020):

- **PHW to provide output data to be included in the TAC briefing for the end of next week commencing 8 June 2020**
- **PHW to update on high level work**
- **Surveillance - what's working and not working**
- **PHW and Cardiff agreed to reflect on papers from SAGE 4.6.2020 immunology and feedback to TAG**

2.2 UK Taskforces

There are a number of UK wide taskforces being set up to address important questions around vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and serology. The chair and membership consist of senior government officials and academics.

The draft therapeutics Taskforce Terms of Reference were circulated to the group which held its first meeting this week and will be meeting fortnightly. There is a pressing need to have a Welsh representation on each taskforce.

Primary care in WG will likely be part of the operational element of the therapeutics taskforce and it was agreed it would be good to coral back to the TAG R and D subgroup.

Other colleague in WG PHW and Cardiff uni have been linked to the vaccines TF's but have yet to receive an invite to a meeting. There have been comms with the chair re sending out papers.

PHW have attended a Serology/Diagnostic TF but it is not working at pace (the next meeting is towards the end of June).

There are also programme boards and operational groups under each T/F which Wales could/should have a representation on.

Action

- **Investigate more on the programme boards**
- **Taskforce as an Agenda item for 2 weeks' time**

2.3 SAGE Papers

- A) Immunology
- B) Future structure and governance
- C) Institutions, clusters and super spreaders

A) Immunology

It was agreed at the top of the meeting this would be an agenda item at a later TAG meeting

B) Future structure and governance

SAGE released a paper this week on the governance for SAGE for the next phase of Covid-19 Response.

TAG members were invited to comment for TAC to take to SAGE on Monday 8 June when it will be discussed.

Suggestions included:

- The leads in the blue box of the governance map could be health as the same way that the JBS could be let by the 4 CMO's. This would ensure equity of access across the 4 nations.
- Setting up a three nations structure

Concerns include:

- There is no mention to the CMO's in the devolved admin only CSA's
- Whether the JBC can act as an international entity if it's situated in the DHSC
- Moving from C3 to Federated structure
- Funding for setting up a three nations structure

It was agreed the need for scientific advice has not gone away.

Action

- **TAC to take comment and questions around the proposed governance of SAGE and feedback on Wednesday TAG.**
- **TAG secretary to circulate the paper on the governance for SAGE**

C) Institutions, clusters and super spreaders

SAGE shared a paper on the analysis of SARS-CoV-2 transmission clusters and super spreading events.

PHE agreed that it's not a bad approach to apply to covid with the caveat that this is something that is usually found in hindsight.

Action

- **TAG secretariat to send a copy of SAGE paper to PHW (actioned)**
- **Agenda item of Institutions, clusters and super spreaders at Monday 8 June TAG**

2.4 Face coverings

England are now mandating FC on all Public transport. Scotland are considering it.

There hasn't been any change to the medical advice from the 4 nations CMO.

TAC have asked Heath tech Wales to build on all the evidence they have to date to show what a quality face covering (not a mask) would look like and what the minimum requirements would be for WG to recommend using them.

The Royal Society paper is recommending people wear them in a clinical setting and possible a social care settings.

Where there are chances for people to be closer than 2 metres, it may be inevitable that people will wear them, however this will place a demand on supply and could lead to misuse and discrimination. From a public health view point - there is the potential to protect using surgical masks. It would need a lot of people to wear them which may be an issue even where the polls are showing that people think they are a good idea.

TAG need to be clear on the evidence it's providing to the minister to allow them to make decisions

2.4 Research

Action

- **Research as an agenda item on Monday's TAG meeting**

2.6 Tony Blair paper

It was raised whether there may be value to get out the mobility data, even if it's long term

Action

- **TAG are welcome to make comments on the Tony Blair paper to TAC team**

2.8 Social media work - NR@gov.wales

There is a need to get experts in front of the camera and explain the science of covid in a visual way

How TAG can contribute

- Provide the answers to questions raises
- Do a piece to camera at CP2
- Selfie work
- Provide a script for area of work which can be converted to animations
- Graphs
- Podcasts

- Facebook live
- You Tube videos
- Virtual Cafes - see below
- Publications due out

Agreed areas to concentrate on

- Facebook live to talk about people's concerns and worries – Heather, Fliss and Heather
- Facemask – following advice received from Heath tech wales.
- Second Wave
- Contact Tracing [NR] has had some info and created animation stuff but welcomes more.
- Surveillance and the risk on the second peak [NR] agreed to contact PHW's comms team
- CPT
- Environmental monitoring - data on bathing waters and canoeing for example
- Modelling on numbers. CS is making a presentations on R rate which is technical – this could be a Youtube video.

There is a new TAC team member starting next week who can coordinate and facilitate these events

Cardiff are hosting a Genomics café on 17 June to talk about covid work via Zoom which is open to the public. Please let [NR] know of any of such things and she can promote them.

Action

- [NR] to send TAG a list of FAQ's