

COVID19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
21.07.2020 - Notes

Winter pressures

Action

TAG members invited to add objectives for the next few weeks into a summary paper by Friday 24.7.2020 (next TAG meeting)

RO to share summary report with CMO MfHSS

Armakuni Circuit Breakers

Action

TAG comments back to BC/CS on the circuit breaker paper by close Wednesday

ICJU international comparators - Super spreader events and clusters (paper can be found in Objective connect as ICJU(20)028 - 20200619 - Superspreading Events and Clusters)

Key Insights:

It is highly likely that a minority of infected individuals are responsible for the majority of Covid-19 transmission, and likely that most transmission is driven by super-spreading events

Some individual risk factors are biological, Others are behavioural

Key operational characteristics of a cluster targeting strategy are: prevention and detection focused on the contacts and activities most strongly linked to SSEs; and rapid response to identify and isolate the original source of infection through location-based testing and backward contact tracing

Facemasks and Super spreaders

Pro's

Super spreader events can't be predicted however it was suggested that if everyone wore a mask/cover then they would be prevented.

There is some evidence that the person wearing them is protected.

Some face covering wearing is better than none, and there is risk that the best becomes the enemy of the good in this narrative.

Con's

Incorrect wearing

Increased touching of faces - self-contamination

Incorrect removal and disposal of PPE – including an environmental impact

A false security that they may engender if used with people reducing their distancing and hand hygiene measures as a consequence

Mask fatigue where people do get fed up of wearing them and if they perceive that risk is low they will stop wearing them.

Cost implications for people least likely to afford them

A suggestion was made for a more proactive door to door testing practice, based on profiling based on country of origin, place of work, in order to predict and prevent. The antibody testing paper does suggest a more proactive approach.

There is growing support from TAC and TAG members for the use and of facemasks/coverings

A suggestion was made to set up a task and finish group to support the recommendations to the CMO

Action

TAC to draft a consensus statement on facemasks/covering to include the mins of the previous TAG meeting.

RWCS for Wales

TAC are using different data sources including the SPI-M scenarios to produce a RWC for the long term for Wales rather than releasing new versions more frequently.

Many HB's are using the RWCS as predictors. Clear comms needs to be reiterated that they are scenarios

Action

RWCS for Wales as an agenda item at TAG on Friday 24 July meeting. May need to consider economic hardships, Brexit and impact on medical supplies etc.

Rob and Fliss to draft a letter to SCG chairs and NHS planners on the availability of the RWCS

Update from on the international report.

Military's maps of high contact places in Wales that focussed on Education, Industry and Tourism.

Most of Wales is now at risk. The greatest element now is tourism especially in West Wales which has remained unscathed up until now as now as caravan and campsites reopen and people coming in from areas where the rules are different and are forgetting the 2m rule.

The long term effect needs consideration for the Universities especially in West Wales where they closed down early.

Huw Morris shared this link for a paper that models the risk factors in the population in Wales and the availability of health resource to respond.

<https://www.readcube.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-020-01646-2>

Actions

JM to share (Geography team in WG) contacts details to Military.

SW to send details to TAG and KAS.

TAC to share lessons learnt in Leicester paper (SAGE) with military.

RL to share Richard Fry details who does Geo analysis in SAIL with Military.

TAC to set up a Task and Finish group to discuss this further with MG to chair and CW and to be invited.

AOB

Swansea University Policy Model v1.2 report results fits in with serology and the most important element is the initial exposure of the population to covid and R0.

It's proposed to add the report to the TAC repository.

Actions

TAG members invited to comment on Swansea University Policy Model v1.2 report and to discuss at Friday TAG 24.7.2020

BC and CS to take Swansea University Policy Model v1.2 report to SPI-M

TAC to Invite KCL to TAG to discuss the report data 20.7.2020

Outstanding Actions

TAC363	21/07/2020	TAG members invited to add objectives for the next few weeks into a summary paper by Friday 24.7.2020 (next TAG meeting)
TAC362	21/07/2020	RO to share summary report with CMO MfHSS
TAC361	21/07/2020	RL to share Richard Fry details who does Geo analysis in SAIL with Military
TAC360	21/07/2020	TAC to share lessons learnt in Leicester paper (SAGE) with military
TAC359	21/07/2020	BC and CS to take Swansea University Policy Model v1.2 report to SPI-M
TAC358	21/07/2020	TAC to set up a Task and Finish group to discuss this further with MG to chair and CW and NR to be invited – in hand
TAC355	21/07/2020	Request an update from NR on the international report
TAC352	21/07/2020	TAC to draft a consensus statement on facemasks/covering to include the mins of the previous TAG meeting.- Agenda item 24.7.2020
TAC351	21/07/2020	TAC to Invite KCL to TAG to discuss the report data 20.7.2020 – in hand emailed TS 23.7.2020
TAC350	21/07/2020	TAG members invited to comment on Swansea University Policy Model v1.2 report and to discuss at Friday TAG 24.7.2020)
TAC349	21/07/2020	Action TAG comments back to BC/CS on the Armakuni circuit breaker paper by close Wednesday 22.7.2020
TAC347	14/07/2020	TAC and AJ from behaviour subgroup need to draw up a consensus statement on face coverings
TAC346	14/07/2020	TAC to arrange a session on the test and trace data. To include NWIS and KAS and WG policy lead and Armakuni. In Hand
TAC344	14/07/2020	TAC to arrange a session on International work and to invite NR NR

		In hand
TAC343	14/07/2020	KAS and NR to discuss this risk off line re duplication of data in the COVID-19 recovery profile app
TAC341	14/07/2020	TAG members to feedback on dashboard indicators re circuit breakers
TAC338	10/07/2020	TAG to provide comments on Genomics paper prior to sign off at end of next week
TAC336	10/07/2020	FB to pick up offline for further discussion around care homes papers with CW, RL and MG
TAC335	10/07/2020	TAG/FB - Volunteers from TAG with clinical or epidemiological expertise to approach HM around joining some Education meetings. If none get in touch FB will contact personally.
TAC331	07/07	CM to share ECDC papers on schools reopening with TAG
TAC321	03/07	CS to share link to beta version of dashboard
TAC311	29/06	MG/TAC to consider publication of policy modelling paper