

From: PS FirstMinister [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7D46FBA2D9B94A7193CB7971F7B6ECFF-FIRSTMINIST]

Sent: 10/06/2020 16:21:36

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Subject: Official sensitive: Note of Ministerial call 9 June

Attachments: face coverings.docx

Official sensitive: Note of Ministerial call 9 June

MHSS Update: Face coverings

MHSS provided an update on the face coverings announcement at the press conference later today. The announcement would recommend wearing face coverings in certain indoor environments as an additional protection to those already implemented (social distancing). The health advice on face masks and coverings has not changed, but the context has now changed, including announcements in England but also opening of more services such as retail and transport provision. The announcement would only recommend the wearing of face coverings in certain situations, and would not mandate it. The Technical Advisory Cell report would be published alongside the announcement.

The announcement would not include advice on medical grade face masks and use in health and social care settings, but would signal that Welsh Government would be further examining the evidence and working with stakeholders to provide advice. The draft policy note produced by the

CMO would also be further worked on to be published at a later date. There are implications for manufacturing and supply of face masks coverings which will need to be worked through.

Discussion focused on the following considerations:

- The need to ensure the terminology and definitions are correct in communications, particularly face coverings and medical grade face masks.
- Agreement that recommending rather than mandating is the appropriate course of action.
- Manufacturing and supply considerations
- Importance of engaging with stakeholders, including unions, on implementation
- Equality considerations, including whether advice will be different for groups more at risk such as disabled people or BAME communities, and also the impact of people in poverty
- Implications for childcare settings
- Guidance for requirements around school transport, if face coverings or masks are required for both morning and afternoon trips that will result in a significant demand and cost for local authorities.

Cllr Morgan updated that there were no major issues to report from local government, the major focus was on preparations for the phased return to school announced by the Minister last week.

Attached is the note of discussions taken place with Trade Unions referenced in the call.

NR

Prif Ysgrifennydd Preifat i Brif Weinidog Cymru
Senior Private Secretary to the First Minister of Wales

Irrelevant & Sensitive

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