

## First Minister

**From:** First Minister  
**Sent:** 11 October 2020 16:53  
**To:** Personal Data  
**Subject:** Memo on Health call 3.30pm 11/10/20

314 per  
100,000.

Note on CSA/CMO Minister of Health, DFM

Swann: We are in a much worse place than Thursday – hospital numbers are increasing and ICU admissions. Trusts are starting to down turn procedures as they need beds for covid patients. Anaesthetists are being moved from surgery to help in ICU.

Need to have hard intervention very soon – preference is for 6 weeks.

Newry mourne and down has levelled out but not getting better. Mid Ulster has overtaken NMD. Belfast was blunted with restrictions on households but continues to rise. North West is very bad and continues to rise. The virus is however on the rise everywhere.

Biggest concern is hospital beds. All hospitals are at red level in surge plan and altnagelvin has opened its third covid ward. This week breast surgery will stop in southern trust. Need to announce intervention tomorrow. Cases are doubling in 7 days and hospital admission in 8 days. By that calculation we will have 290 in hospital next Sunday and 600 the following Sunday. Any intervention will take ten days to have a plateau effect.

I asked about Nightengale stand up – plan is to try and increase beds locally because if centralise at Nightengale then will take staff away from hospitals. Independent sector will be used for red flags as in first wave. Trusts are trying to upscale staff but are losing staff to self isolation/covid.

If we don't take decisive intervention then the Health service will be overwhelmed and we are past the tipping point – we are probably too late. Community transmission will soon be in care homes – inevitable.

Single measures on their own likely not to be enough.

CMO

*if Health service overwhelmed  
why are we not opening  
Nightengale hospital? Minister said?*

We are the worst in Europe in terms of the spread of Covid – in numbers and trajectory – why we need lockdown. As soon as possible is preferable with implementation no later than 16<sup>th</sup> October. Because of covid numbers we will be turning down the rest of the health service.

I warned against bouncing colleagues into a nphet situation (ROI) as it would send people in opposite direction.

Swann – may be that covid is the only health care the NHS provides between now and Christmas and we will never recover from that unless we take action.

All elective surgery will be closed by next weekend – running out of time.

Will include in paper what other jurisdictions are doing.

In terms of education SF asking could we take a longer break at Halloween? I resisted strongly the education point – CMO problem is not school per se but all the social interaction around it – buses, pre school, after school

The paper will come in to Executive office from Health tonight. I have warned as strongly as I can about briefing. We will then need to do a risk analysis from an economic point of view on the paper.

The picture painted could not have been any bleaker. We have a COBR tomorrow at 10.30 and then the push will be on for executive decisions.

I would appreciate a call later.

SF are 4 x bus burden  
like North inc Education  
(Teachers unions  
etc).

- Ties 1, 2 & 3:  
has a range  
bp → burden (for tops).

CNO ag Education  
closing.

4 Wks.  
Education.

600 / 1000

→ Liverpool  
→ Mer C

Tier 3.

- excludes education
- Work / travel essential

Mutual aid?

losing down economy  
not possible.

Nottingham 830 / 1000

N/W ~~620~~ / 1000  
⇒ London

Glasgow 229.5 / 1000

take time to get things right.

- COBR

⇒ If introduce lockdown now  
what do we do then.