

HOCS ECT UPDATE, 28 APRIL

RESTRICTIONS/RELAXATIONS

Where are we?

- Tomorrow signifies another big day of relaxations coming into place, the reopening of retail, self-contained accommodation, and the outdoor spaces of licenced and unlicenced premises, individual use of gyms and you can have 15 people from 3 households in your garden.
- We have the remaining agreed issues for the indicative date of 24 May (review on 20 May).
- Overall the relaxations have been well received, with the engagement at official level having been very positive, though there has some concern about the enforcement of the outdoor areas that I understand Minsters are already aware of.
- Today we are considering arrangements around CTA travel, but within and outside. Important decisions are needed in our ongoing management of the virus, and in relation to holding off any third wave or the arrival variants of concern here.

What next?

- The proposals for the 13 May review point are being evaluated across the Cross Departmental group.
- These are related to extracurricular activities in schools, sport, libraries, conferences and meetings and theatres & concert halls. Good to note these aren't all for immediate opening, but to allow for future planning as required in larger events.
- A further paper will come in around the detail for the 24 May reopening. Official's will be preparing a paper for CMO and CSA to consider, and then bringing it to the Executive for approval, this will cover issues such as the number to be permitted from indoor domestic setting gatherings, as well as issue around the numbers for indoor hospitality.

The broader context

- DoH will be monitoring the impact of the changes and whilst we recognise the likelihood of some increase given increased contacts we sincerely hope the mitigations and risk controls in place will play their part in keeping that to an absolute minimum.
- We continue to work on adherence issues, with our partners. Looking forward to the summer period and work to encourage people to live more outdoors as it is safer.
- There has been good work with SOLACE on Covid Ambassadors. Each Council area has arrangements in place for this coming weekend.
- And would like to note excellent work between DfE officials and the retail sector, with support from CMO and CSA, on arrangements for re-opening of non essential retail. Advice and guidance has been updated, and posters prepared.

Summary

- We continue our journey on the pathway out of restrictions. Hopefully we will see positive images from the media of well managed queues and people out enjoying themselves in as safe a way as possible this weekend.

RECOVERY STRATEGY

Where are we?

- Work progresses with all departments to develop an Executive Covid recovery Strategy
- A range of interventions from a number of departments have been received and analysed
- We are on target to have most of the remaining interventions submitted this week

What next?

- The remaining interventions will be analysed and consolidated for inclusion in the draft strategy over the course of the next two weeks
- Central to this is further engagement with officials on an ongoing basis
- I will brief the executive in more detail next week

The broader context

- The strategy will set out recovery priorities over the next 24 months
- In addition to setting out those interventions, the strategy will also identify interventions that will seed future and longer term ambitions.
- It is, therefore, important this work dovetails with the longer term aspirational PfG and we are working to ensure that happens
- Consideration is also being given to governance and delivery arrangements

Summary

- We are currently on target to have a draft cross departmental Covid Recovery Strategy for consideration by the end of May
- This is an ambitious though achievable target but there is much to do
- Departments are keen to work with us on this
- Ongoing engagement with the relevant policy areas in the Departments is essential achieving that target

ENGAGEMENT ON THE FOUR COVID REVIEWS

Where are we?

- Relevant officials from a number of departments re engaging with the UK and other DAs on the four reviews:
 - Global Travel Taskforce – report published on 9 April and findings are being considered
 - Social distancing – policy discussions ongoing
 - Covid certification – policy decisions and standards being considered
 - Mass Events Pilots – events being run through April and May – initial findings are emerging
- Cross departmental group has been established to share information and identify interdependencies of the 4 reviews

What next?

- Officials are meeting today to progress establishing a large event pilot here
- An update on this and the other reviews will be provided

The broader context

- There is a desire to take a four nations approach on the findings from the reviews
- The interdependencies need to be understood
- There are ethical and practical issues associated with Covid certification

Summary

- We are not as advanced on these issues as UK and other DAs
- Important that engagement on these issues continues
- Updates will be provided