

Message

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Sent: 11/01/2021 18:50:50
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Subject: CM: Cab Sec (O) 11 1 2021
Attachments: 2021-01-11 COVID-19 Briefing Dashboard CabSec (PDF) (1).pdf

Rough notes from meeting at 5 pm:

Steffan Jones re Dashboard:

2% infection- big increase- rate of increase may be slowing but this had been the prompt for the interventions a week ago.

Mixed picture on three dimensions:

1. Regional - London slow and maybe declining; NW now rising - heading for 3% of London
2. Age - Increase for all cohorts; School age beginning to fall, but rise in older groups
3. New Variant - Rising everywhere; In London and SE – total growth v heavily driven by new variant; but elsewhere (eg NW and NE England) some of the Christmas growth was from the old variant

Case rate per 100k – some very high figures eg 1,600 Barking

NW showing rapid growth

Hospitals - 3718 admissions on latest available - average 3000 a day

Numbers in hospitals- 32,000 of first wave peak of c 20,000

Ventilation - 20% of ventilated beds were Covid patients in mid-December now 50%

Deaths 700-800 on some days

Real strain in NHS

Ian Diamond:

ONS publication tomorrow will have deaths data for the year - 2020 week 52 tomorrow- “incredibly high” overall, but the age specific data will be worth looking at

Not as high for v elderly but still serious

James Bowler

Looked back at action taken last Monday. Four steps:

- Third National lockdown
- Schools to online
- Stay at home message
- Vaccine deployment target

Major step up on compliance message

Chris Whitty messages eg yesterday in press were very clear and stark

Mass vaccination centres being mobilised

Get Cohorts 1-4 vaccinated asap

Armed forces helping
Issues ahead re eg “hard to reach” groups
Needs alliance of local players and NHS

Julia Kinniburgh (DfE) on the education position
Schools action last week and exam announcement followed on
Contingency plan with Ofqual – there will be a very short consultation on the fall back option re teacher assessment to be announced later this week
Testing programme for staff and pupils being intensified
Still vital given that there are some in schools eg critical workers children
Noise re levels of infection in schools - waiting for data
Tamara Finkelstein asked what should be done if a school is not dealing correctly with the needs of key workers – answer – refer to Ofsted – or within the civil service system, refer to DFE or National Schools Commissioner

Jo Farrar said there was a problem for prisoners who are over 80 - probably logistical issue
Indra Morris asked if social workers are a priority as some boroughs are claiming? - Clara Swinson says use definitions re health and social care workforce as in PHE guidance

Phase 2 - under 50s
Cases were being made by a number of groups for degrees of priority for vaccination – there would be clinical and political choices

Madeleine Allesandri asked about a request from NI HSC to GB for help re staffing capacity ie medical personnel deployment
Clara Swinson referred to a named list and said she would come back offline re mutual aid. [DN NIO seems to be have been helpful in this context]

Paul Johnston suggested a four nations approach on prioritisation on Phase 2 [DN presumably that is absolutely normal re JCVI guidance]

Claire Pimm
Enormous push on stay at home message
Heavy reach and spend on many channels
Wide range of voices
Gathering data to target local areas
From nudge to a “big shove”
Needs wide and full solution

Simon Ridley
Covid (O):
Tomorrow- NHS capacity
Wednesday - vaccine deployment
Thursday usual travel meeting with DAs and also wider issues on international engagement
Also:– there would be a continuation of the discussions that had happened over the past weekend on enforcement by police and local authorities
Self isolation issue - need to improve effectiveness of behaviour
Serial testing needs a plan to be made effective