

Message

From: David Adams (College of Medical and Dental Sciences) [D.H.Adams@bham.ac.uk]
Sent: 19/03/2020 5:26:14 PM
To: Alan McNally (Microbiology and Infection) [A.McNally.1@bham.ac.uk]; Andrew Beggs (Cancer and Genomic Sciences) [A.Beggs@bham.ac.uk]
Subject: Re: Urgent letter from Jeremy Farrar

Jeremy's super quick response is interesting so lets see what govt says you might be leading the whole bloody thing!

From: "Alan McNally (Microbiology and Infection)" <A.McNally.1@bham.ac.uk>
Date: Thursday, 19 March 2020 at 17:24
To: Andrew Beggs <A.Beggs@bham.ac.uk>, "d.h.adams@bham.ac.uk" <D.H.Adams@bham.ac.uk>
Subject: Re: Urgent letter from Jeremy Farrar

Wow. I didn't see that coming, and if you can excuse the French that's a massive "fuck you" to the whole of UK academia!

Its not the direction of travel I was sensing. The most senior of PHE colleagues were telling me the use of Uni labs for community testing was almost certainly going to happen. I was on 5 live this afternoon recommending it!!! We should of course try and fight our corner but this feels like an absolute done deal, all testing will be in approved, validated, accredited labs.....real shame

Alan

From: "Andrew Beggs (Cancer and Genomic Sciences)" <A.Beggs@bham.ac.uk>
Date: Thursday, 19 March 2020 at 16:54
To: "David Adams (College of Medical and Dental Sciences)" <D.H.Adams@bham.ac.uk>, "Alan McNally (Microbiology and Infection)" <A.McNally.1@bham.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Urgent letter from Jeremy Farrar

If they want us to send all the machines to them we can do that, but it would seem a shame when we've already set it up here. We have capacity for 10000 tests per day already set up, and I have 35 volunteers who can work on a rota to provide the testing.

BW

Andrew

From: David Adams (College of Medical and Dental Sciences) <D.H.Adams@bham.ac.uk>
Sent: 19 March 2020 16:51
To: Alan McNally (Microbiology and Infection) <A.McNally.1@bham.ac.uk>; Andrew Beggs (Cancer and Genomic Sciences) <A.Beggs@bham.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: Urgent letter from Jeremy Farrar

Looks like we are ahead of the curve!
My son has just sent me the article from Wired about you and your plans to do this Alan.
Fame at last!

Bw
David

From: Katie Petty-Saphon <katie.petty-saphon@medschools.ac.uk>
Date: Thursday, 19 March 2020 at 16:46
Cc: "Kristen.Mcleod@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk" <Kristen.Mcleod@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk>, "E.Whiting@wellcome.ac.uk" <E.Whiting@wellcome.ac.uk>, "WWarr@no10.gov.uk" <WWarr@no10.gov.uk>, "AGilligan@no10.gov.uk" <AGilligan@no10.gov.uk>, "E.Whiting@wellcome.ac.uk" <E.Whiting@wellcome.ac.uk>, "j.farrar@wellcome.ac.uk" <j.farrar@wellcome.ac.uk>
Subject: Urgent letter from Jeremy Farrar

Dear MSC
Please see below from Jeremy. Best Katie

Dear All

Excuse the late hour and an extraordinary request.
You will be very aware of the COVID19 pandemic and the inevitable impact on the UK.
We have been working 24/7 over a number of weeks now on this and over the last two days have been focused on increasing the UK's capacity for diagnostic testing (HCW, individual patients in hospitals, people at home and age stratified population serology).
It is clear that whilst the NHS and PHE are ramping up, there is no way they can meet the surge that is going to be needed.

We estimate that we will potentially need to get to 200,000-300,000 tests a day at the peak of this pandemic, current capacity is ~5000 tests a day. Not only do we have to increase the number of tests, but also the speed of getting those tests completed from sampling, to assays to results fed back to people. All the logistics being done at scale and at speed by professional companies used to dealing with such complex issues – Doug Gurr at Amazon has been a great partner through this. And this comes with the very strongest support from across government as the only viable solution. So the extraordinary request!

The best approach is to use in the first instance is to use the Thermo Fisher platform (others – Roche, Qiagen, and others will follow) and to use these in “dedicated diagnostic factories” in the UK. Probably three in the first instance with dedicated equipment, staff and able to work 18-24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

There are no Thermo Fisher machines to buy globally (or any other platform!). Many of your Universities and Institutes have these machines.

We want to ask you to work with us all at this time of great national need to allow the machines in your Universities and Institutes to be provided to the centralised diagnostic centres. And to do so urgently!

We appreciate there are a significant number of issues to work through – QA/QC, regulation, ownership, replacement equipment when we eventually get through this, liability and many more. But these are unprecedented times and we cannot use by normal processes.

With UK now on the cusp of the epidemic following the path of northern Italy and with a doubling time in parts of UK now of 3-5 days currently this could not be more urgent. We estimate that ITU's in will be beyond capacity within 14-28 days if the measures announced over the last week fail to shift the epidemic curve.

We at Wellcome have been working on this with the No10, CSO, CMO, DHSC, the Office of Life Sciences, Amazon, Thermo Fisher Roche, Qiagen, and others over the last 36 hours and are a totally committed partner to this national and global emergency.

We need your help!

Tomorrow the Prime Minister will write to you and add to this request, but I wanted to give you a heads up tonight. In an ideal world the army would pick these machines up in the next 24 hours – that is the sense we believe of the urgency.

Much to think through and ponder – and we may not have all the answers today or tomorrow – but we would hugely appreciate your partnership and urgent support.

Very best wishes

Jeremy

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