

Attendees:

Scientific experts:

- Patrick Vallance (GCSA)
- Chris Whitty (CMO)
- Andrew Rambaut (Edinburgh)
- Angela McLean (CSA MOD)
- Brooke Rogers (King's College London)
- Charlotte Watts (CSA DfID)
- David Halpern (CO)
- Graham Medley (LSHTM)
- Ian Diamond (ONS)
- James Rubin (King's College London)
- Jeremy Farrar (Wellcome)
- John Aston (CSA HO)
- John Edmunds (LSHTM)
- Jonathan Van Tam (Deputy CMO)
- Julia Gog (Cambridge)
- Maria Zambon (PHE)
- Neil Ferguson (Imperial)
- Osama Rahman (CSA DfE)
- Phil Blythe (CSA DfT)
- Sharon Peacock (PHE)
- Steve Powis (NHS)
- Tom Rodden (CSA DCMS)
- Wendy Barclay (Imperial)

Observers and government officials:

- Ben Warner (No. 10)

Secretariat: [redacted]

Names of junior officials and the secretariat are redacted.

Participants who were observers and government officials were not consistently recorded therefore this may not be a complete list.

Summary

1. Owing to a 5 to 7 day lag in data provision for modelling, SAGE now believes there are more cases in the UK than SAGE previously expected at this point, and we may therefore be further ahead on the epidemic curve, but the UK remains on broadly the same epidemic trajectory and time to peak.

2. The science suggests that household isolation and social distancing of the elderly and vulnerable should be implemented soon, provided they can be done well and equitably. Individuals who may want to distance themselves should be advised how to do so.

3. SAGE is considering further social distancing interventions that may best be applied intermittently, nationally or regionally, and potentially more than once to reduce demand below NHS capacity to respond. The modelling sub-group is discussing potential interventions on Monday 16 March 2020, for review by SAGE on Tuesday 17 March 2020.

4. The behavioural science suggests openly explaining to the public where the greatest risks lie and what individuals can do to reduce their own risk and risk to others, even if this is ahead of measures announced by the government but SAGE recognises that taking individual measures may be more feasible for some than others. Greater transparency could enable personal agency, send useful signals about risk and build trust.

5. Measuring the impact of all interventions depends on sufficient, relevant data delivered on time: it is a priority to ensure