

Message

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on behalf of Emma Payne <emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> [emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
Sent: 15/03/2020 21:37:13
To: Mark Sweeney [mark.sweeney@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
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Subject: Covid-19 Policy measures: Actions from PM meeting [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE]

All,

The PM chaired a meeting at 5pm today with CDL, the Health Secretary, CMO, GCSA, Cabinet Secretary and other advisers and civil servants. A fuller note will issue shortly; this email captures key decisions and the next steps / actions needed.

ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

It was agreed that a package of announcements would be put to COBR on Monday 16 March, for announcement at a press conference afterwards. These decisions were as follows:

- 1.
2. To announce and launch the **household stay at home** policy from Monday 16 March;
- 3.
- 4.
5. To announce a package of **'soft' social distancing advice for the general public**. Of the options set out in the DHSC paper this would include:
 - 6.
 7.
 - a.
 - b. Advising against social mixing in the community (eg at the cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, clubs);
 - c.
 - d.
 - e. Advising against receiving friends and family in the house;
 - f.
 - g.
 - h. Remote access to NHS and other essential services;
 - i.
 - j.
 - k. Advising varying of daily commute - less public transport;
 - l.

- m.
- n. Advising working from home.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10. To communicate to **more vulnerable groups** (eg 70+, pregnant women and those with particular health conditions) that these social distancing measures should be followed more rigorously.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13. That **'shielding' for the c.1.4 million individuals** with serious health conditions (ie the most vulnerable) would commence within one week. These individuals would be contacted by their GP or specialist within a week, and those who had not been contacted in this period should reach out to their GP. The proposed support package that would accompany this measure would be put to Ministers on Wednesday 18 March.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16. That, given the measures outlined above, it would be advised (but not mandated) that **mass gatherings should not take place**. It was agreed that public services support would not be provided to any mass gatherings and this would be announced. A decision was not taken on providing compensation as a result of this announcement.

NEXT STEPS

To implement these decisions, the following actions are to be taken forward:

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- **COBR slides:** CCS to own the pack with Strategy Committee Sect (**Mark Sweeney and Emma Payne**) to lead on providing policy content. Deadline for circulation: midday Monday.
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- **COBR Chair's brief.** CCS to own with input from Strategy Committee Sect (**Mark Sweeney and Emma Payne**).
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- **Communications products:** **DHSC** to produce public health guidance and advice and checklists (working with **Alex Aiken and the comms hub**) covering all the interventions (apart from mass gatherings). **Drafts should be provided for review by Imran and Mark Sweeney before midday tomorrow with a first cut 10am** on 1) household stay at home 2) messaging to the vulnerable 3) social distancing measures for the general public. This would need to be ready to go live at the time of the press conference.
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- **Mass gatherings comms:** **DCMS** to produce guidance on the mass gatherings policy (**first draft 10am**).
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- **Single comms script:** **Alex Aiken and No10** to produce a **single comms script** and **glossary of key terms** based on the guidance and the PM's press conference (for use by all Ministers following the press conference)
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- **Implementation: DHSC** to ensure that implementation of the new measures is delivered to this timeline (including NHS 111 call handling scripts etc) and to share the plan for the different steps and products needed.
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- **DA handling: DHSC** to call senior health officials in DAs ahead of COBR. **Cab Sec** to call the Welsh and Scottish First Ministers tomorrow AM.
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- **Online checker: Katharine Hammond and NR** to provide a timetable for gov.uk checker to go live.

In addition, the following actions have been agreed in subsequent discussion:

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- On SSP, free school meals and TV license fee - **Strategy Committee Sect (SCS)** to pick up the plans with departments to ensure lines / Q&A ready for time of announcement,
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- SCS to liaise with lead departments and comms teams to ensure clear lines on schools and flights.
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- On food and fuel security **Katharine Hammond** to follow up with DEFRA
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- **NR** to produce a briefing for the PM - LOTO meeting tomorrow.

The Central Coordination Team will track against these actions during the course of tomorrow and will circulate updates during the course of the day.

Many thanks,

Emma



Emma Payne
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On Sun, 15 Mar 2020 at 16:30, Mark Sweeney <mark.sweeney@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi all,

Please find attached the papers and agenda for the 5pm meeting. To note, the Secretariat's covering paper is the final attachment. The order of the attachments corresponds to that outlined in the agenda.

Best,

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| | | <p>Mark Sweeney Director General, Cabinet Secretariat (Domestic Policy) E: mark.sweeney@cabinetoffice.gov.uk Office: psmarksweeney@cabinetoffice.gov.uk</p> <p>SRS: [] NR [] I&S [] [] I&S [] PS NR [] I&S [] I&S [] Irrelevant & Sensitive [] APS/Diary NR [] I&S [] [] I&S []</p> |
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