

SGoRR - Covid-19

02 March 2020 15:29

1) Update on latest health situation from the CMO and discussion around 'Social Distancing'

CMO:

4 new cases in England.

Have publicised reasonable worst case scenario.

80% would be infected in pandemic scenario - many not be symptomatic though (they'd have a mild cold or flu) - 4% would require hospital treatment.

Community communications have started - from GPs and in A&E.

Lower peak and spread would push many cases from current winter pressures. Warm weather will likely help reduce the spread.

Social Distancing will be required if and when the situation moves beyond containment phase.

Consideration underway on what would be the trigger from containment to delaying.

What would social distancing mean? Cinemas, sports events, concerts, home working, travel, self-isolation, schools, transport hubs?

A clear exit strategy from Social Distancing will be required before commencement.

FM:

Worst case will be sensationalised and are based on China situation.

Scotland vs France this weekend.

Chair:

Deep dive this Wednesday on social distancing and considering mass gatherings (assessment 9-12).

FM:

Impact on the NHS will be significant whatever the level of outbreak.

DFM:

Schools. Balance. Would affect workforce.

Cancelling a sports match might give indirect messages to public/schools.

FM:

All about trying to reduce the impact on the NHS.

NR

Consider the balance of impact on the NHS - help with delay phase while also judging respective risks on the economy and other areas.

We are trying to smooth out the inevitable peak over a longer time to help manage health service capacity.

We need to be clear on public messaging.

Could last into the autumn.

FM:

Cancelling the rugby match would be because of the situation in France - needs to be distinguished publicly that this would be because of France, not the situation here.

CMO:

We would not expect to move from the containment phase for a number of months yet, as only 1 reported case in Scotland.

2) NHS preparation update, including Escalation Plan

NR

Geared up across all areas.

Working through what the various protocols would be to treat people - not necessarily ambulance travel (sometimes self-isolation will be more appropriate).

FM:

We need to consider how we move from clinical treatment for all to also having self-isolation where appropriate.

NR

Primary care end - has asked how quickly we can gear up digital advice and also NHS 24. We are exploring how to gear this up for if and when there is a shift towards not recommending people go to their GP.

3) Impact on the economy, business and vulnerable groups

FM:

What advice are we given to businesses - what are we recommending for self-isolation. Especially with regard zero-hours contract.

Budget engagement with UK Gov, especially DWP.

Gary Gillespie is currently considering the macro-economic impact.

Budgetary - we will need to consider our own allocation of resources.

Bring a more specialist piece of work to a future meeting.

FM:

What are we saying to businesses (e.g. not go to work) and do we need to step in with some contingency arrangement.

NR

Fair work considerations. Like in severe weather.

We need to gear up our engagement with the business community.

No-deal prep will help.

NR

Senior officials have considered about how to shift no-deal resources and learning. They will do this based on FM priorities.

NR

Also people with addictions and who are homeless.

Gary Gillespie:

We can provide more info on macro-economic consequences.

4) Transport

Airports briefed on how to passenger handling and healthcare advice.

NR

They are receiving the info and disseminating.

Consideration of social distancing in transport hubs.

CMO:

Airports need to work on improving their first aid facilities and links with healthcare facilities.

5) Launch of 4 Nations Coronavirus Action Plan

We will sign up. And do a Scottish supplement.

A useful framework.

CMO:

Read from your own portfolio area (**action**).

NR

We should factually set out in the Scottish supplement how we are engaged with the UK.

6) Legislation

NR

Relates mostly to health, from our purposes.

We are maxing out taking powers and then will make decisions in Scotland about how/if/when to use those powers.

A controversial issue is a proposed loosening of disclosure checks for people coming back to work in the NHS to help, especially regarding children. Will be referred to in NR's statement tomorrow.

The messaging around this needs to be clear, so that people know we might not use all the powers (e.g. compulsory vaccination) - it would be in the delay phrase that these powers may need to be used.

FM:

All Cab Secs need to be familiar with clauses in their areas (**action**).

DFM:

We need to be clear about how we are warming up a number of stakeholders and audiences that this Bill will include measures that SG would be unlikely to exercise. Especially with local authorities. A synchronised approach so that it lands well. A list of bodies and local government to discuss these with to warm up (**action**). DFM to do this with COSLA before NR's parliamentary statement tomorrow/Tuesday.

NR

There is a possibility that parliament may not be able to sit at some point. Engagement with Chief Executive.

NR

Parliament may want to drop fingerprint requirement on entry to reduce infection. Businesses need to think about things like this to reduce infection.

FM:

Is there an extension of advice that we want to get over to people - e.g. should people shake hands?

7) Comms/Marketing

Visit to publicise launch of action plan.

NR's statement - amplify.

FM:

Clear, pro-active messaging using our trusted brand.

But caveat as appropriate not to cause alarm.

8) Next Steps

Weekly Ministerial SGoRR. Moving to x2 weekly if and when necessary in weeks ahead.