

SPI-M-O Meeting

Wednesday 24th November 2021, 10:30 – 13:30

Potential COVID-19 burden across Europe

1. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) presented modelling regarding the potential remaining COVID-19 burden across Europe. It was noted that waning of immunity and emergence of new variants were not included in the work.
2. The committee discussed the susceptibility of the UK population in comparison with Europe.

Nowcasts and situation update

3. The committee heard the consensus view for UKHSA's latest estimates of R and growth rates.
4. CoMix report will now be produced on a fortnightly basis.
5. The regional variation group presented their findings of decreased spatial heterogeneity over the past week. Testing behaviour and risk of testing positive across IMD decile groups were also discussed.

Medium-term Projections

6. The committee reviewed the latest medium-term projections and agreed a consensus view for the next four weeks.

Festive period

7. The medium-term scenarios looking to the next eight weeks were discussed, and the committee agreed a consensus view.
8. The committee discussed the potential range of R during the festive period and it was agreed that the levels will be highly dependent on specific behaviours.
9. The committee agreed that greater, judicious use of lateral flow tests (LFTs) can reduce the risk of transmission over the festive period.

Endemicity's determinants

10. The committee discussed various determinants of COVID-19 endemicity for the longer-term future.
11. It was agreed that the path to endemicity is highly dependent upon the rate of waning of immunity and chosen policies on vaccination and boosting.
12. The importance of various observational surveys and data streams, and how each data will help future surveillance and control purposes were discussed.

Impact of booster vaccinations

13. Public Health Scotland (PHS) presented the impact of booster vaccinations in Scotland to the committee. The work also consisted of the waning of immunity and the impact of the A.Y 4.2 sublineage of the Delta variant.

Overdispersion in transmission

14. The committee discussed the overdispersion of transmission and whether or not it has now dampened. It was agreed that genomic data is required to gain a better understanding but that it is likely that transmission is clustered to some extent.

Data

15. The committee discussed the weekly reinfections data. It was noted that there is a plan for merging the line-lists of the data.

AOB

16. The committee congratulated the SPI-M-O secretariat on the top three nominations of the annual Civil Service Awards.

Papers sent to SAGE

- SPI-M-O Consensus Statement ("211124 SPI-M-O Consensus Statement FINAL.docx")

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