

- That the measures already taken are insufficient and that would be insufficient even if school closures are added. In this case school closures would be needed as part of a wider package.
- An intermediate scenario where school closures are necessary and sufficient to turn the epidemic around (with a lag). In this case school closures have quite a dramatic positive effect.

Because we do not have sufficient data on either the state of the epidemic or accurate indicators of the impact of school closures not all models predict the same scenario. This, in our view, accurately reflects the prevailing uncertainty.

In brief: school closures now or in the near future may not help much but they could have a big effect. I'd venture that the policy implication is obvious.

I note that the pattern I suggested would occur – that London is ahead of the rest of the UK – is indeed happening. The implication is that if schools are closed in Scotland at the same time as London then we would be taking this step at an earlier stage of our epidemic.

I hope this is helpful.

Kind regards,  
Mark Woolhouse

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From: [See recipients listed above]

Sent: 16 March 2020 13:16

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: RE: URGENT: novel coronavirus - follow up from SAGE13 #CONFIDENTIAL

Many thanks, Mark. I'm very grateful to you.

NR