

## Message

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**From:** Whitty, Chris [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0B3EE62E0CA04E978730B14F9B416A1E-WHITTY, CHR]  
**Sent:** 15/03/2020 09:49:27  
**To:** Vallance, Patrick (GO-Science) [P.Vallance1@I&S]  
**CC:** Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) [GCSA@I&S]  
**Subject:** RE: how does this look?

I think we need to be recommending they get on with social distancing.

Chris

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**From:** Vallance, Patrick (GO-Science) <P.Vallance1@I&S>  
**Sent:** 15 March 2020 09:37  
**To:** Whitty, Chris <Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) <GCSA@I&S>  
**Subject:** how does this look?

### Objectives

Our two key aims are:

1. To ensure that the curve of the epidemic is flattened to a degree that allows the NHS to cope
2. Protect lives through appropriate shielding of the elderly and vulnerable

CMO will provide precise definitions of the group in objectives 2, and NHS has provided numbers of ICU beds and ventilators for objective 1.

### Current state and effects of interventions

The current stage of the epidemic and its trajectory suggests that we are a few weeks (we cannot be precise about how many) away from the NHS reaching a point where it could not cope

There is uncertainty in all of the modelling and it is critical that we have accurate near real time monitoring of the epidemic and the NHS figures.

The three measures that have the biggest impact to reduce the numbers of people needing ICU care are case isolation, home quarantining and shielding of the elderly. The two of these that have not yet been implemented should be implemented as soon it is practical to do so. Particular care should be taken with the shielding of the elderly to ensure that we do not get unintended adverse effects on health.

These measures should be accompanied by actively encouraging enhanced social distancing – including encouraging businesses to facilitate home working where they can, asking individuals to reduce contacts and avoid gatherings, reducing unnecessary travel (all this will require precise guidance on what exactly we are asking people to do).

Together these measures should have a significant effect on the trajectory of the epidemic but it will take 2 weeks or so to be able to begin to see the impact. This needs to be monitored very carefully and will require the right data flows from the NHS to do so.