

meeting tmr at 9am...but I expect we will need to kick HMT

[25/03/2020, 20:21:24] Matt Hancock: Ok. Let me know

[25/03/2020, 20:23:06] Helen Whately: Will do. I have been told that - despite many care homes not accepting patients from hospital - the discharges are going well. Though you probably have more visibility of that than me.

[27/03/2020, 10:14:24] Helen Whately: To flag - Munira is messaging me a lot about abortion, v concerned about backlash, Grazia etc primed to cover lack of access to abortion during pandemic. I've been in regular contact with Emma about it but mindful we haven't had a chance to discuss situ.

[27/03/2020, 10:33:09] Matt Hancock: We need to ensure there is exactly the normal access to abortion during the crisis

[27/03/2020, 10:37:12] Helen Whately: That's a very clear steer, thank you. Providers are telling me that's not possible - however, I will revert to see how we can make it so.

[27/03/2020, 10:37:21] Matt Hancock: thank you

[27/03/2020, 13:09:49] Helen Whately: I am going to have another session with policy team ASAP on ways to maintain abortion access - though they seem to think it will be v hard to do so, just so you are aware.

[27/03/2020, 13:23:22] Helen Whately: Just saw you tested positive...are you ok?

[27/03/2020, 13:24:05] Matt Hancock: Thank you! Thankfully mild symptoms - still working away from home. No rest for the wicked!

[27/03/2020, 13:24:51] Helen Whately: I know you're super human but can you please look after yourself a bit!

[27/03/2020, 14:05:28] Helen Whately: FYI Worcestershire care sector have nearly run out of PPE and being told by suppliers they cannot provide more. I have messaged Steve Oldfield and Jo C direct.

[27/03/2020, 14:07:16] Matt Hancock: Pls ask Jonathan Marron - he's got to hold the ring on the policy wise

[27/03/2020, 14:11:36] Helen Whately: 👍

[27/03/2020, 14:17:09] Helen Whately: Jonathan is on it

[27/03/2020, 19:48:23] Helen Whately: I'm told the hospices funding decision is with David Williams

[27/03/2020, 19:48:35] Helen Whately: Would be very good to get it sorted

[27/03/2020, 19:54:48] Helen Whately: Sorry to bother you again on Abortion...I'm told it's likely to be a broadsheet front page this weekend, lots of problems with access (25 of 71 clinics closed, over 1,000 appts cancelled).

[27/03/2020, 20:01:48] Matt Hancock: Oh no. Why?

[27/03/2020, 20:02:52] Helen Whately: Clinics are closed due to staff sickness/isolating or because "the health centres they are located in aren't operating as normal"

[27/03/2020, 20:03:29] Matt Hancock: Aargh!

[27/03/2020, 20:06:17] Helen Whately: I have policy guys working on ways to maintain services without allowing both pills at home eg could we use local GP combined with a telemedicine option to abortion specialist...though it's clear they don't favour this

[27/03/2020, 20:07:36] Helen Whately: I am also waiting for home office view on domestic abuse/coercion risk of both pills at home (my original concern about the proposal)

[27/03/2020, 20:08:09] Matt Hancock: Yes. But at least if we do move now it's because there's a real problem.

[27/03/2020, 20:08:38] Helen Whately: Indeed, rather than a worry about it.

[28/03/2020, 09:26:31] Matt Hancock: Shd we start a recruitment campaign to get those who have been infected working in care homes? Might this diminish chances of these awful scenes of 1/3 dying as it sweeps through? Im v worried re care homes in general -- lots of scope for fear on the ground leadign to v vulnerable left neglected?

[28/03/2020, 09:26:51] Matt Hancock: Just got this from Dom Cummings. Are we doing anything like this for now?

[28/03/2020, 09:34:32] Helen Whately: The team is working on a central recruitment campaign - and I'm told separately by care agencies that recruitment is going well. CST confirmed yesterday furloughed staff can top up pay eg working in care, which is helpful and needs to be more widely communicated. We definitely need to test care staff as soon as testing capacity allows: I'm expecting them to be in the prioritisation matrix James Bethell is overseeing. I am also wary of the NHS trying to force care homes to accept patients with Covid symptoms - and expecting to review discharge guidance this weekend.

[28/03/2020, 09:36:14] Helen Whately: The 2 big care sector risks we are working to reduce are 1. Covid

sweeping through a Care home and 2. Vulnerable elderly abandoned because care staff are sick/isolating (as in Spain)

[28/03/2020, 09:37:19] Matt Hancock: Yes. Shouldn't the recruitment campaign specifically target those who've had it and so are now immune?

[28/03/2020, 09:39:31] Helen Whately: It's a good idea - but until we have testing at scale, only a small number of people know if they've had. Loads of people are speculating that they have, but don't know for sure (I include myself!) Do you know when we'll have antibody testing?

[28/03/2020, 09:40:14] Matt Hancock: Couple of weeks. First large delivery arrives by 10 April

[28/03/2020, 09:42:36] Helen Whately: V helpful. Will factor that in. Would be v grateful for your help making sure social care gets a sensible share of capacity. NHS voice is so much louder, and people in the testing team have started out with the assumption that the majority should go to the NHS, even though more people work in care.

[28/03/2020, 09:43:25] Helen Whately: Good that Dom/no 10 is thinking about Care sector.

[28/03/2020, 09:52:21] Matt Hancock: Yes

[28/03/2020, 12:38:11] Helen Whately: I'm hearing hospices £ still not signed off and urgent. Can you help?

[28/03/2020, 12:44:16] Matt Hancock: Yes I've chased this morning

[28/03/2020, 13:18:38] Helen Whately: Excellent, thank you

[28/03/2020, 18:24:21] Helen Whately: Do you have sight of the methodology for allocating testing capacity? I am nervous the rationale for testing in social care will be overlooked, because it's being driven by NHS demand. Have asked to see it but nothing has come my way.

[28/03/2020, 18:34:45] Matt Hancock: - Any abortion will require a telephone or e-consultation with a doctor.

- This change will be made on a temporary basis only, and is time limited for two years, or until the crisis is over, on the same timetable as the emergency legislation. It is not permanent.

- This applies for medical abortions up to ten weeks, as it is currently.

[28/03/2020, 18:36:11] Helen Whately: Thx

[28/03/2020, 19:27:55] Helen Whately: I've spoken to Therese. She seems ok about it if not best pleased.

[28/03/2020, 19:46:15] Matt Hancock: Thank you

[30/03/2020, 12:10:09] Helen Whately: Hi. I'm told you're attending Michael's 1.30pm call today. Would you like me to join as usual vs v happy to leave you to do it. I find it is usually 5 mins useful for 55 mins listening each time.

[30/03/2020, 12:28:45] Matt Hancock: Your call!

[30/03/2020, 12:29:02] Matt Hancock: I'm going to stop him screwing things up on testing

[31/03/2020, 09:54:06] Matt Hancock: Hi **NR**

I've worked at Martin House for nearly 14 years and aware you worked here.

We have a current situation where a family want to be admitted for end of life care but their child has a temperature.

We are currently not taking children with covid 19 symptoms so therefore this child has to die at home.

If the child had a swab and was negative they could come to the hospice.

The swabs currently are not being used for this purpose and **I&S** have said they will not test the child and it's out of our hands.

If there is anything you can do to help it would be very much appreciated.

Kind regards

I&S

[31/03/2020, 09:54:28] Matt Hancock: From Stuart Andrew - can you call him? Do hospices need testing?

[31/03/2020, 10:09:04] Helen Whately: I'd say this hospice needs testing.

[31/03/2020, 10:09:18] Helen Whately: Do you know how we can get them a test?

[31/03/2020, 10:09:29] Helen Whately: And yes will call Stuart

[31/03/2020, 10:28:58] Helen Whately: I have asked James B if he can help

[31/03/2020, 10:29:34] Matt Hancock: Yes please - we need to ensure hospices are on the list as we extend testing

[31/03/2020, 10:29:46] Helen Whately: Agreed

[31/03/2020, 13:04:42] Helen Whately: Sorry if I trumped a plan you had to get DCMS to own volunteers on the call earlier. Wasn't sure you knew I had been asked to present the update. It is a problem that MHCLG/LAs don't seem to want them - as you picked up. V aware of need to solve & make sure they are used.

[31/03/2020, 13:12:41] Matt Hancock: I hadn't been told you were presenting - I am very sorry I should have come to you first. I will leave it with you to lead now

[31/03/2020, 13:14:22] Helen Whately: No need to apologise! You are doing a completely brilliant job, by the way.

[31/03/2020, 14:10:53] Helen Whately: Testing now in progress. Have called Stuart and he is happy. Working with James to make sure hospices in general can access testing.

[31/03/2020, 15:56:57] Helen Whately: FYI Care sector is up in arms about lack of PPE. I'm struggling to get clear answers especially for provision within the next week. The National Supply Centre is just sending them back to their suppliers who have no supplies, I'm told. I do have a call with Jonathan Marron to update me tmr, and Ros knows the situ...but want you to be aware.

[31/03/2020, 16:10:25] Matt Hancock: Thanks - join my PPE meeting that's happening at 16:15?

[31/03/2020, 16:11:33] Helen Whately: Delighted to

[01/04/2020, 14:56:38] Helen Whately: Would you prefer I kept quiet in those meetings and left it to you to ask the Qs? Please let me know if so.

[01/04/2020, 15:14:40] Matt Hancock: no- you are brilliant and I rely on you to drive forward all that in between my weekly catch ups

[01/04/2020, 16:00:44] Helen Whately: Great. Have been...will keep on doing.

[02/04/2020, 22:48:21] Helen Whately: Outstanding job at the press conference today. H

[02/04/2020, 23:05:32] Helen Whately: And can we give people medals for what they are doing / have done to fight Covid? Drawing on service in war parallel. People at all levels are doing amazing things.

[03/04/2020, 06:47:50] Matt Hancock: Yes can you get that idea worked up?

[03/04/2020, 09:04:26] Helen Whately: Will do.

[03/04/2020, 22:36:24] Helen Whately: Have commissioned work on medals idea. I think coincidentally an idea along these lines was also in The Mirror today.

[04/04/2020, 10:43:13] Matt Hancock: Can you also please do some work on dignity in dying & burial? I will commission the team

[05/04/2020, 17:01:45] Helen Whately: Sorry missed this somehow yesterday. Yes...I am meeting end of life team this week to make sure we have palliative care capacity. Can pick that up with them as well. Mindful MHCLG are active on 'death management' too

[05/04/2020, 17:04:45] Helen Whately: Please can I have someone in the supplies team dedicated to overseeing PPE to social care. It is still all over the place, they have sent me contradictory info in recent days and cannot answer Qs about flow. I'm also told clipper system looks NHS focused (and again no one can tell me whether it will cope with 20k social care providers ordering stock day 1). There's only so long i can keep saying to the social care sector we're working on it, without losing all credibility. H

[05/04/2020, 17:07:34] Matt Hancock: I had the impression Jonathan Marron was fixing it. If not then absolutely let's do that - can you talk to him?

[05/04/2020, 17:07:47] Matt Hancock: Yes - v important we work with MHCLG on this

[05/04/2020, 17:09:36] Helen Whately: I will talk to him again. It's not fixed. What we need is someone in the supplies team to have oversight, not a social care/DHSC person if that makes sense. But will go back to JM.

[05/04/2020, 21:03:45] Matt Hancock: Yes agree

[06/04/2020, 14:16:09] Helen Whately: Thank you for pushing Emily to identify an individual to oversee Social Care PPE. She was clearly reluctant & wants to keep the operation across H&SC - will see where we get to in next few days.

[06/04/2020, 20:38:05] Helen Whately: V worried about the PM. Hope you're ok. X

[08/04/2020, 11:26:25] Helen Whately: So no surprises (1) investigating reported serious covid breakout in a nursing home (Jack Brereton believes 11 dead and staff refusing to work).

[08/04/2020, 11:28:33] Helen Whately: (2) lessons learned internationally suggest we should be testing all care home residents and staff who have had covid contact irrespective of symptoms. Have asked for guidance on action we should take based on this research (by LSE)

[08/04/2020, 12:46:24] Matt Hancock: I'm up for this and the capacity to do this is growing fast

[08/04/2020, 12:46:37] Helen Whately: Great

[09/04/2020, 20:53:58] Helen Whately: The team has made a start on the social care strategy. There will be a first cut with intro/objectives and structure (headings, main content points) for our call tmr.

[09/04/2020, 21:09:23] Matt Hancock: Brilliant. Key thing is the getting the policy right too

[09/04/2020, 21:18:06] Helen Whately: Noted

[09/04/2020, 21:18:44] Matt Hancock: You handled the interruption today brilliant btw

[09/04/2020, 21:19:53] Helen Whately: Thank you.

[09/04/2020, 21:20:31] Helen Whately: I'm afraid been sent first proper data on care home deaths just now and it's not good. Speaking to PHE, CQC and Ros tmr morning about it.

[09/04/2020, 21:23:35] Matt Hancock: Ok

[10/04/2020, 15:34:00] Helen Whately: Understood you're doing 5pm press conference...Care home deaths data may come up...we expect official ONS data on Tuesday will show a big jump in deaths. Also we now have data on deaths of residents in care homes but there is some double counting (includes some who have died in hospital) and non-Covid. It's not that we're not counting, it's that it's complicated. Changes to notifications will give us better data soon.

[10/04/2020, 15:36:14] Helen Whately: We are also investigating how Covid outbreaks are occurring in care homes - how covid is getting in & getting passed on. PHE has launched research.

[10/04/2020, 15:36:47] Matt Hancock: Thanks. Do you have briefing on the deaths data?

[10/04/2020, 15:36:54] Matt Hancock: Great

[10/04/2020, 15:39:46] Helen Whately: I've seen it and discussed it with Ros - no formal briefing. Comms are working on approach - with aim of transparency - but recognising bad headlines likely

[10/04/2020, 19:02:44] Matt Hancock: Amazing that social care didn't come up at all - but I got the announcement about testing out

[10/04/2020, 19:20:10] Helen Whately: Amazing - most journalists still don't know what it is?? Thanks for the social care testing announcement. Great job.

[10/04/2020, 19:47:27] Matt Hancock: You are doing amazing work on what is probably our hardest policy area

[10/04/2020, 19:48:38] Helen Whately: Thank you. Really grateful for your support. The extra focus last couple of days is already making a difference too.

[10/04/2020, 19:52:39] Matt Hancock: Let me know what you need and you will get it

[10/04/2020, 20:31:16] Helen Whately: Thank you. Will do.

[12/04/2020, 18:15:30] Helen Whately: My PO tell me you're discussing the social care strategy with Dominic Raab tmr. Do let me know if there's anything else you need from me. Discharge process, testing & PPE still top priorities, then workforce (with parity vs what we do for NHS workforce as a guiding principle) and getting funding to providers (do we need a way of clawing back...). Still lacking transparency on what £ is actually reaching them. And want to see more focus on social care in govt comms. Hope you've had a little bit of family time...and just say any way I can help. H

[12/04/2020, 18:17:37] Matt Hancock: Yes. You should join the meeting

[12/04/2020, 18:17:51] Matt Hancock: Have you managed to progress the key policy decisions?

[12/04/2020, 18:23:11] Helen Whately: Thank you. Would like to.

[12/04/2020, 18:25:13] Helen Whately: I have given my view on them (& also asked for further work on a some) - but not sure I've quite understood the Q, have you got a couple of minutes to speak?

[12/04/2020, 18:28:53] Matt Hancock: I've asked for you to be invited

[13/04/2020, 09:12:18] Matt Hancock: Just in case you didn't get them: 9.45:

Irrelevant & Sensitive

[13/04/2020, 09:17:00] Helen Whately: Thank you!

[13/04/2020, 09:27:02] Matt Hancock: It's starting early - now I think

[13/04/2020, 09:37:44] Helen Whately: I am waiting to be let in.

[13/04/2020, 10:03:58] Matt Hancock: you happy with where this has got to?

[13/04/2020, 10:16:07] Helen Whately: The discharge policy my biggest concern

[13/04/2020, 10:16:18] Helen Whately: That's an argument with Simon clearly

[13/04/2020, 10:18:01] Helen Whately: Dom's asks for more detail on testing and PPE are the same as mine have been for the last few days

[13/04/2020, 10:18:13] Helen Whately: No one seems able to give it!

[13/04/2020, 11:22:00] Helen Whately: Have you got a minute for a debrief re SC strat?

[13/04/2020, 11:23:42] Matt Hancock: will call

[13/04/2020, 14:59:20] Matt Hancock: How's the doc going? In particular, have we got an agreement with the PPE delivery team and with MHCLG on LRF drops between now and when Clipper comes online?

[13/04/2020, 15:48:08] Helen Whately: It is progressing. I am trying to get an answer on your Q above and on how Clipper will work for social care (Because will it...?)

[13/04/2020, 17:57:46] Helen Whately: Jonathan Marron has a sensible plan for PPE drops to LRFs this coming week.

[13/04/2020, 17:58:38] Helen Whately: Involves likely drops to 18 (based on the data they have supplied and demand). Those who have not provided data / do not need more will not get more.

[13/04/2020, 18:01:03] Helen Whately: And further drops the following week. Clearly there is some risk that providers who need it but have a rubbish LRF (which hasn't provided data) won't get access to more via their LRF. They will still need to be able to draw on the wholesalers/NSDC

[13/04/2020, 21:46:54] Matt Hancock: Have you agreed a discharge policy with NHSE?

[13/04/2020, 21:56:44] Helen Whately: Nhs won't keep them in an Nhs setting if fit for discharge. We can't force care homes to take them if covid infection risk - however, some may have isolation / covid positive zone so can...and if not, we advise local authorities to secure appropriate 'alternative care arrangements' eg an LA-commissioned isolation facility.

[13/04/2020, 21:59:01] Matt Hancock: That sounds messy

[13/04/2020, 21:59:23] Matt Hancock: Why won't the NHS keep them if the alternative to having a system in place is them staying in hospital?

[13/04/2020, 22:00:25] Helen Whately: I feels like a matter of principle. They are determined not to budge on discharging If patients are fit to discharge.

[13/04/2020, 22:00:44] Matt Hancock: Who is speaking for NHSE here?

[13/04/2020, 22:01:09] Helen Whately: Ros says the numbers will likely be really small - because anyone being discharged to care will likely have been in hospital 2 weeks anyway. Ian Dodge.

[13/04/2020, 22:02:19] Matt Hancock: Can you pls write your preferred language into the doc - taking into account genuine NHS concerns - and we will take that forward

[13/04/2020, 22:03:06] Helen Whately: Yes

[13/04/2020, 23:28:52] Helen Whately: I have been working on the text...and I can see the NHS point - at last they have managed to win the battle of getting patients who are fit for discharge actually out of their hospitals. I'm asking them to go backwards on that. I think - so long as it IS feasible for LAs to source provision for small numbers of covid patients being discharged, which it seems to be for some at least - I can live with that. The important thing is that we don't force care homes to take them.

[14/04/2020, 07:39:34] Matt Hancock: Ok. COVID our suspected Covid

[14/04/2020, 10:02:34] Helen Whately: Sorry I missed this message earlier

[14/04/2020, 10:02:56] Matt Hancock: We've agreed to publish tomorrow not today - so we have 24 hours to sort it

[14/04/2020, 10:04:17] Helen Whately: Yes...helpful given shifts on testing.

[14/04/2020, 10:04:31] Matt Hancock: yes - which is itself very helpful

[14/04/2020, 10:06:21] Helen Whately: Indeed. Have discussed with Paul Johnston. He's working out whether you need to isolate people even if test is negative (given they have insisted tests are unreliable for asymptomatic people.)

[14/04/2020, 10:10:07] Helen Whately: For discharges - I concluded last night that it does make sense for LAs to have responsibility for people who don't need to be in hospital but do need to be quarantined. My understanding is LGA/ADASS agree (& NHS clearly). Can be funded out of the £1.3bn that went to nhs for discharges. The question is one of how they do it eg by commissioning a specific care home for the area, or hotel accommodation etc. Some are already doing this.

[14/04/2020, 10:10:33] Helen Whately: I realise you may disagree and want to revert to nhs!

[14/04/2020, 11:27:04] Matt Hancock: I'm very happy for it to be via LAs

[14/04/2020, 11:34:29] Matt Hancock: Best to include in the wording on discharge: "as agreed locally between the NHS and local authorities" - as there needs to be local flexibility

[07/07/2020, 17:41:50] Matt Hancock: it rings a bell so she may already know. But we've had trouble with different parts of govt sending people in in a malcoordinated way...

[07/07/2020, 17:42:36] Helen Whately: Indeed!

[07/07/2020, 17:44:20] Matt Hancock: This message was deleted.

[09/07/2020, 09:47:11] Matt Hancock: I've emailed the slides to **NR**

[09/07/2020, 10:16:49] Matt Hancock: <https://www.carehomeprofessional.com/european-survey-reveals-england-has-lowest-rate-of-covid-19-care-home-deaths/>

[09/07/2020, 10:17:33] Helen Whately: Thx

[09/07/2020, 14:36:03] Matt Hancock: When are we going to reallocate visiting in care homes?

[09/07/2020, 14:50:23] Helen Whately: Do you mean - when will we publish the new visiting policy?

[09/07/2020, 15:25:26] Matt Hancock: Yes. I've just announced it

[09/07/2020, 16:21:24] Helen Whately: Great. We really do need to get it out ASAP.

[09/07/2020, 16:32:04] Matt Hancock: I've said we will publish "in the next few days". When can it go?

[09/07/2020, 17:01:19] Helen Whately: They have told me 1 August! I have said NO that is far too late. Your public commitment to next few days is v helpful

[09/07/2020, 17:11:15] Matt Hancock: When do we publish?

[09/07/2020, 21:59:25] Helen Whately: I'm due a new draft tomorrow. But I'm told we need no 10 sign off and they are apparently nervous and may delay.

[09/07/2020, 22:01:06] Matt Hancock: Fine

[10/07/2020, 11:26:44] Helen Whately: I have flagged to **NR** than I think we urgently need to address the Ros situ. She is brilliant but she just hasn't been present for the last 2 weeks. We appointed a DG for social care because it needs one. That's still the case!

[10/07/2020, 11:59:18] Matt Hancock: Ok

[13/07/2020, 18:20:23] Helen Whately: We have received a PHE update on the new care home outbreaks - some were not reported before, some are from blanket testing and some are 'suspected but not confirmed'. I find their report frustratingly vague and dismissive about new outbreaks. I have asked for a proper breakdown of how many fit into each of the categories above, going down to named individual care homes, and want to adopt a 'zero tolerance' approach to covid in care homes. Every single outbreak should be treated as a problem requiring immediate action and investigation.

[13/07/2020, 20:08:13] Matt Hancock: Totally agree. We should have zero tolerance for both covid and crap data. Remember: PHE described Leicester to me as "progressing positively" 4 days before lockdown. It was only because I blew up at that imprecision that they acted

[13/07/2020, 20:48:12] Helen Whately: I remember that!

[14/07/2020, 16:42:20] Helen Whately: Just to flag - I'm feeling uncomfortable that apparently DHSC staff have had a £100 covid bonus but NHS and social care staff at the frontline have not. Surely that's going to give us a backlash.

[14/07/2020, 16:47:52] Matt Hancock: First I've heard of it

[14/07/2020, 16:53:39] Helen Whately: Apparently it's going to be vouchers rather than cash but struck me as potentially tricky.

[14/07/2020, 18:51:27] Helen Whately: I'm due to get an update on the care homes outbreaks data from phe imminently

[14/07/2020, 20:27:21] Helen Whately: PHE have revised down the figures. On the one hand this is good because it indicates we don't have a sudden increase in outbreaks. On the other, it gives me even less confidence in PHE. I have asked for an explanation for the revision of each data point. I have also asked to be given info about each and every outbreak - care home name, location, nature of outbreak, number of cases etc, given that we should be down to zero new outbreaks now

[14/07/2020, 20:48:45] Matt Hancock: Yes thanks. Totally agree

[15/07/2020, 20:31:42] Helen Whately: Latest outbreak reporting includes PHE statement that 'some incursion of infection [in care homes] is inevitable...' They are so much part of the problem! But I am working on it.

[17/07/2020, 12:03:34] Matt Hancock: What do we need to get out of the social care meeting later?

[17/07/2020, 12:11:25] Helen Whately: Insight into the ongoing new outbreaks - what's the cause, what action is being taken [plus a clear process on what happens when a care home has a suspected case - including reporting to us]; a commitment from PHE on providing 'live cases' data; agree direction of travel on infection control fund rollover; ensure the team has a proper process to develop ASC winter plan eg clear objectives, engagement with providers & LAs & NHS on their roles, challenge sessions

[07/10/2020, 18:11:25] Matt Hancock: What do you make of this?

[07/10/2020, 18:23:14] Helen Whately: Well. I'm due to speak to Wade next week (was this week but bumped by debate). But overall - we really need to enable covid-secure visiting. I think our restrictions now mean too many care homes are allowing too little/no visiting. Nadine had a meeting with the PM last night and a family who recently lost both parents in a care home without being able to see the Dad. She has told me PM now wants us to 'follow the approach in the Netherlands' which is much more visitor-friendly.

[07/10/2020, 18:25:39] Helen Whately: I have asked my PO to check if that really is PM position, check with you, check in with Jenny Harries...but meanwhile I don't think we should publish the new more restrictive visiting guidance which was basically driven by no 10 'ban visiting' steer, and DCMO has been consistently against

[07/10/2020, 20:11:27] Matt Hancock: Well done. Agree 100% with you

[07/10/2020, 20:11:53] Helen Whately: Great. Thank you

[07/10/2020, 20:16:50] Helen Whately: Would you like more of an update on overall care homes situ? As Jane said on JBC call, number of positive tests is back up and higher than first week of September, with a growing number of sizeable outbreaks (10+ residents infected).

[07/10/2020, 20:28:51] Matt Hancock: Yes - I'd like to have a proper daily data reporting system please. I will ping on what I currently get daily but it's a bit hard to read

[07/10/2020, 20:29:02] Matt Hancock: image omitted

[07/10/2020, 20:32:32] Helen Whately: Ah yes that page is rubbish. I check our pallentir dashboard every day, it's good and they are really responsive to my asks. I will get a daily report done for you. Also working on getting the right content from it into the cabinet office dashboard.

[07/10/2020, 20:32:49] Matt Hancock: TQ

[07/10/2020, 20:36:17] Helen Whately: image omitted

[07/10/2020, 20:36:17] Helen Whately: image omitted

[07/10/2020, 20:37:00] Helen Whately: That's just to give you a sense

[07/10/2020, 20:37:30] Matt Hancock: That's great. I should get the palantir dashboard

[07/10/2020, 20:39:14] Helen Whately: Yes. You will find it really interesting to dig into. Drills down to individual care homes.

[07/10/2020, 20:48:42] Helen Whately: I have asked my PO to get you a login.

[08/10/2020, 09:56:18] Matt Hancock: I'm really worried about this second peak. We need to get out there and make the argument for why action now will save lives, stop the NHS being overwhelmed, AND is best for the economy

[08/10/2020, 10:02:41] Matt Hancock: image omitted

[08/10/2020, 10:04:39] Helen Whately: I sense you think I need convincing? I don't - my challenge in JBC yesterday was because, in order to convince others, I think we need better answers to some questions

[08/10/2020, 10:05:03] Matt Hancock: No!

[08/10/2020, 11:03:03] Helen Whately: Would it be helpful if our care home voices eg NR, dispell the myth that you can lock up people in care homes and keep them safe while the virus 'safely' rages among the young?

[08/10/2020, 11:10:27] Matt Hancock: Yes definitely

[08/10/2020, 11:30:26] Matt Hancock: image omitted

[09/10/2020, 08:21:00] Matt Hancock: Evidence_pack_parliamentary_engagement.pdf • 13 pages
document omitted

[09/10/2020, 08:21:46] Matt Hancock: Thought you might be interested in this evidence pack on what's going on across the country. This can all be used in the public domain

[09/10/2020, 19:49:04] Helen Whately: Have you seen this?!

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-dr-johnny-bananas-and-dr-person-fakename-among-medical-signatories-on-herd-immunity-open-letter-12099947>

[09/10/2020, 19:56:45] Matt Hancock: Yes. It was Damon's work

[09/10/2020, 19:57:01] Helen Whately: Good job!

[11/10/2020, 15:35:22] Helen Whately: Please can I refine the care homes part of this. Eg. Tier 3 'plan for care homes mandated' doesn't make sense. As far as I'm concerned it's mandated for all tiers (eg. staff must not move between homes and pay for self isolation). If we are saying more things are mandated in tier 3 let's be more specific.

[11/10/2020, 15:35:46] Matt Hancock: yes

[11/10/2020, 15:36:12] Helen Whately: Is it helpful for me to flag that on chat - or just follow up after