

Message

From: Whitty, Chris [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0B3EE62E0CA04E978730B14F9B416A1E-WHITTY, CHR]
Sent: 15/11/2020 14:40:21
To: Oliver Ilott [oliver.ilott@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Emma Payne [emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Vallance, Patrick (GO-Science) [P.Vallance1@go-science.gov.uk]; Simon Ridley [simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Kate Josephs [kate.josephs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; James Bowler [james.bowler@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Jessie Owen [jessie.owen@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: Forward strategy from 2 December

Look forward to discussing at 4.

In advance of that:

- 1) I really think this needs to be situated in the context of a plan out to April. I do not expect the vaccine, if approved, to have any measurable effect in Jan, and only modest before April, and if only the Pfizer vaccine is approved before then (ie no AZ) it will reduce mortality significantly but not reduce pre-spring pressure on the NHS much. Seasonality will not help us until March and NHS normal maximum pressure starts Jan-Mar. We should try to avoid constant, predictable, tacking around. So this argues for an all-winter plan, rather than a Christmas-and-early-Jan plan.
- 2) Spring will not be normal- but much more normal, depending on vaccine rollout. So that can be addressed nearer the time. But I think we should signal that now. The excellent interview by Prof Ugur Sahin, BioNTech co-founder, this morning on Marr is in my view considerably more realistic and science-based than some other recent commentators on this point.
- 3) A lot of weight is put on testing. I really think we need to avoid stoking an excessive belief that testing alone, even if done well, is our salvation. It is not. It is a helpful adjunct, if it leads to isolation.

Chris

From: Oliver Ilott <oliver.ilott@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 November 2020 13:36
To: Emma Payne <emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; Vallance, Patrick (GO-Science) <P.Vallance1@go-science.gov.uk>; Whitty, Chris <Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk>; Simon Ridley <simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; Kate Josephs <kate.josephs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; James Bowler <james.bowler@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; Jessie Owen <jessie.owen@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Forward strategy from 2 December

Chris, Patrick,
In the exchange below, Simon R mentioned that we should share some materials with you today ahead of the PM meeting tomorrow. Please find attached the slide deck.

We'd be very grateful for any comments this afternoon. To flag that the testing slide is an emerging proposal - we may get an updated slide based on ongoing modelling and will supply that as and when this changes.

In particular, we would be grateful for views on the proposed Christmas easing.

Would you be free to discuss the content with Simon R and a few others at around **1600**? We'll work around your availability.

Kind regards,
Ollie