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CRIP

COVID-19 – UK Preparedness

COMMONLY RECOGNISED INFORMATION PICTURE

CRIP 22

Information correct as of 1900 on Sunday 08 March 2020

CONTACT:

Irrelevant & Sensitive

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Interventions: overview

Advice from the **Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)** is that our response will soon need to move from **contain to delay**.

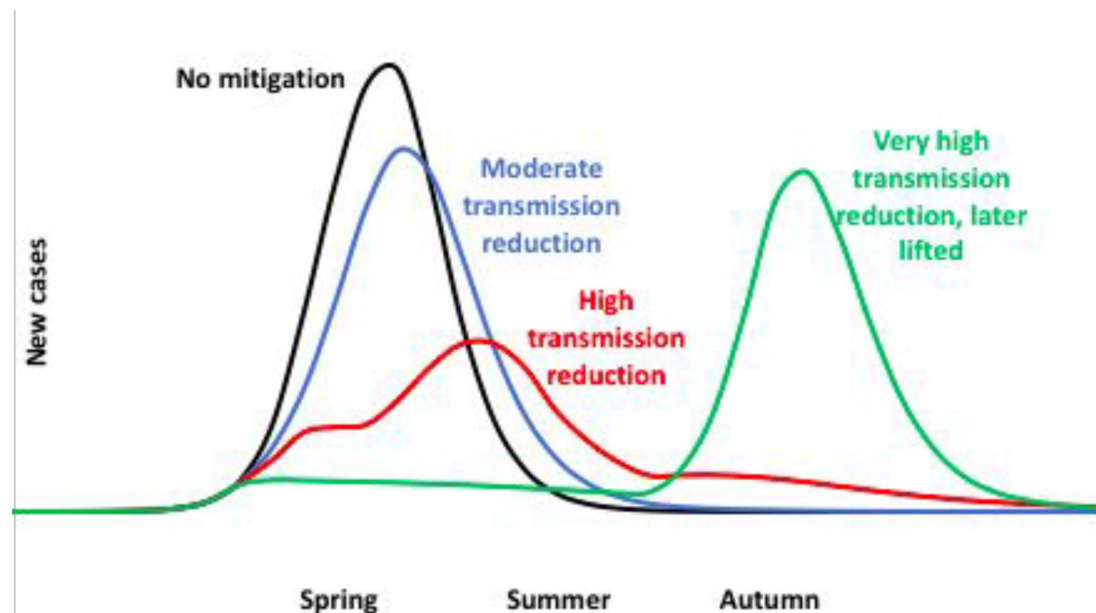
SAGE **have considered six possible social and behavioural interventions** to delay the outbreak based on the clinical evidence. The impacts have been modelled. **They advise three for implementation** in the coming 3-4 weeks: (i) self-isolation by symptomatic individuals; (ii) whole household isolation when an individual is symptomatic; and (iii) significant reduction of social contact by the over 70s and at risk groups. **DHSC is producing policies on these interventions for communication to the public.**

Individual and household isolation principally reduces pressure on the NHS and other services by delaying and flattening the epidemic's peak. The measure for the elderly and vulnerable should reduce deaths. **Implementing all three measures at the right times in the outbreak has the greatest combined impact: 50-70% reduction in peak hospital bed demand; 35-50% reduction in deaths.** Assumptions have been made about how far the public will comply: but all produce some impact at all levels of compliance.

Based on SAGE's current understanding of the outbreak, **to maximise the effectiveness of individual and household isolation we would need to begin implementation by the end of this week.** A decision will be needed by Ministers on implementation of these measures on **Wednesday 11 March**. The third measure (social distancing for over 70s and the most at risk) can be introduced later.

Profile of the epidemic under different approaches

Illustrative impact of social and behavioural interventions lasting several months on a Reasonable Worst Case epidemic



Under the RWCS, cases are expected to peak during April-May, with a very high peak incidence (black line in graph).

Social and behavioural interventions may flatten the peak of the epidemic and increase its duration with the aims of relieving pressure on the NHS, reducing deaths and ensuring they are managed with dignity (red line).

Very stringent social and behavioural interventions (such as those in China) have the potential to prevent a major epidemic establishing, but risks a large epidemic re-establishing when lifted (green line). The advised approach seeks to avoid this possibility.

Vaccines are unlikely to be available until early 2021.