

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

ITEM 1 - C19 UPDATE

30 Mins

Aim

To update Cabinet on the introduction of National Lockdown measures, ahead of your statement later today.

Script

- First, can I apologise for disrupting your Saturday. This call is to update you on the measures that we have to take in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and answer any questions you may have.
- I am as angry as you are about briefings to the media overnight. I have asked the Cabinet Secretary to look into this urgently and we will deal with the culprits in the strongest possible way.
- We are at a tipping point in the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK, and unless we take decisive action now there is significant risk to the wider health of the country.
- R is rapidly increasing in all parts of the country, and is no longer isolated to certain regions. The attempt to manage outbreaks at a regional level have not kept pace with the scale of infection.
- You received a data briefing just before this call so will have seen the projections on the impact on the NHS if we do not take swift, decisive and clear action now.
- I am therefore proposing to enact a national intervention which I will announce this afternoon. This will include the ‘stay at home’ messaging of the Spring but will not be the same as the Spring lockdown. There will be a number of exemptions to minimise the most damaging impacts of lockdown.
- The aim of this action is to drive the R down decisively now, in order to protect the NHS, and ensure we can have more options available to us ahead of Christmas.