

COVID OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 21(96)

Wednesday 8 December 2021 | 1430-1600

ACTIONS

1. The SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE to make a statement on the review of Adult Social Care measures shortly.
2. DEPARTMENTS to ensure that all communications emphasise that Plan B measures are precautionary and proportionate at this time, and the importance of booster vaccinations. Communications particularly around the Christmas period should stress the importance of regular testing before meeting family members and those more vulnerable at gatherings.
3. FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE to work closely with the French Government on the UK's response to the Omicron variant to avoid potential disruption across the UK / France border.
4. DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE and the UK HEALTH SECURITY AGENCY to implement Daily Contact Testing, at least for critical workforces and under-18s, as quickly as possible and more quickly than in the next fortnight.

DECISIONS

1. The Committee agreed to move to the previously agreed Plan B package that was set out in the Government's "*Covid-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021*" on 14 September 2021, as amended in the paper for Covid(O) 21 (96). In relation to certification, this would be mandatory vaccine-or-test certification in nightclubs and large events as defined in the paper.
2. The Committee agreed to move as soon as possible to a policy of Daily Contact Testing, as an alternative to self-isolation, for all fully vaccinated contacts of positive cases, including under-18s.

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3. The Committee agreed that the policy move to Plan B and to Daily Contact Testing would be announced at a press conference by the PRIME MINISTER later that day.
4. The Committee agreed to lay the Face Coverings regulations on 9 December to come into force at 00:01 on 10 December.
5. The Committee agreed to lay the Certification regulations and amendments to the self isolation regulations on 13 December. These additional regulations to come into force at 06:00 on 15 December.
6. The committee agreed to the reintroduction of working from home guidance from 00.01 Monday 13 December.
7. The Committee agreed that a review of the measures would be undertaken in advance of 5 January 2022 and the regulations would expire on 26 January 2022, as set out in the paper for Covid(O) 21 (96).
8. The Committee agreed not to move towards legally required venue check-in where mandatory certification was not required at this point.