

COVID OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 21(60)

Sunday 13 June 2021 | 19:00 - 20.30

Dial In

ACTIONS

1. COVID TASKFORCE and DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE to prepare regulations to: (a) extend the steps regulations and other relevant regulations to the end of 18 July; (b) to deliver the agreed relaxation for weddings, receptions and commemorative events; (c) enable the delivery of a further phase of events pilots.
2. No 10 AND THE COVID TASKFORCE to develop a narrative to communicate the rationale for the pause in moving to step 4 of the roadmap.
3. DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE to prepare a plan that both prioritises getting the maximum second doses to JCVI cohorts 1-10 and meets the target of offering a first dose to all adults by 19 July. And to set out the numbers of first and second doses that are proposed to be delivered by the 19 July, by 3pm on Monday 14 June.
4. COVID TASKFORCE to work with other Departments to ensure that guidance is updated to reflect the agreed changes on life events and residential visits, to be ready for publication early in the w/c 14 June.
5. DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE to prepare updated guidance on Adult Social Care to reflect the changes agreed to isolation and Essential Care Givers, to be ready for publication early in the w/c 14 June.
6. HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY, No 10 AND THE COVID TASKFORCE to prepare a narrative on economic support.
7. CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER to chair a meeting of the Covid Operations Committee on Monday 14 June to ensure readiness to implement the agreed package.

DECISIONS

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

1. The Committee agreed to announce a four week pause in moving to step four of the roadmap. A two week internal data review would be held at the two week point (28 June), an assessment on the 12 July, and step 4 would take place on 19 July.
2. The Committee agreed to extend the relevant regulations to expire at midnight at the end of 18 July.
3. The Committee agreed to a targeted relaxation for weddings, receptions and commemorative events. The 30 person gathering limit would be removed on Covid-secure venues for these events and venue capacity would be based on social distancing, table service and other restrictions. In other venues (excluding private homes) the number cap would be removed and there would be a requirement for organisers to take precautions, including facilitating social distancing.
4. The Committee agreed to run another phase of events pilots, including to test certification, by allowing c.10 - 15 large events planned post-21 June to go ahead at higher capacities with attendees demonstrating Covid status.
5. The Committee agreed to some targeted relaxations for Adult Social Care: (1) to remove the need for residents to isolate for 14 days after visits out (with the exception of overnight stays in hospital, or a visit which is deemed high-risk by the care home) and following admission from the community (subject to criteria specified in the guidance and as long as daily PHE testing protocol continues); (2) to allow all residents to nominate an Essential Care Giver for any purpose or care need (rather than only where the purpose or care need cannot easily be provided by care home staff) and to permit visits from ECGs during periods of isolation. The Committee did not agree to the proposal to remove the limit on the number of visitors each resident can have and the number of visits allowed per day.
6. The Committee agreed to amend guidance to allow out-of-school settings to organise residential visits in 'bubbles' of up to 30 children, to align with the current position for schools.
7. The Committee did not agree to a relaxation of guidance so that multiple groups of 6 can sign together in an amateur choir.
8. The Committee agreed that asymptomatic testing offer should be extended to 31 July and that the current support for self-isolation should be extended for a further three months to 30 September 2021.