

CHAIR'S BRIEF ADDENDUM - COVID-19 Operations (86)

Testing in Educational Settings paper:

1. This paper remains largely unchanged from the version you cleared for circulation on Wednesday 9th December, a summary of changes is below:
 - a. Alongside the base proposition of weekly testing of the secondary and colleges workforce; serial testing of contacts of staff and pupils in secondary schools & colleges; and, when available in February, weekly testing of workforce and serial testing of contacts in primary schools, the paper now recommends surge testing in approach to managing local outbreaks involving educational communities as specified by Local Action Committee Gold or in areas which have reached a specified threshold. This will follow the approach being taken in East London and parts of Essex. This surge approach will need further work to develop fully.
 - b. The additional options of full scale screening of pupils in the new year, and relatedly, weekly testing pupils, previously in para 3 and 4, are now not recommended and discussed further down in the paper.
 - c. Regular testing at university will be considered via the Testing Portfolio Prioritisation Board, and will look at whether to test students at the start/end of each term and in halls of residence weekly once we have analysis from the December and January testing.
2. The Testing Prioritisation Board has not yet agreed asymptomatic weekly testing of the secondary and colleges workforce as a new priority use case.
3. The Health Secretary was not content that the updated version of the paper reflects his views and asked for it to be re-circulated in the Education Secretary's name alone. The Health Secretary would like the offer to schools to be stronger than voluntary; you might want to press the Education Secretary on how he will ensure widespread uptake by schools and colleges.

Attendance:

4. The final attendance list for COVID-O (86) is below:

Ministers

- The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Paymaster General
- The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
- The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
- The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education

Officials

- Dr Jenny Harries, Deputy Chief Medical Officer
- Baroness Dido Harding, Executive Chair, NHS Test & Trace
- Raghuv Bhasin, Chief of Staff to Dido Harding, Test and Trace Programme
- Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser, NHS T&T
- Julia Kinniburgh, Director General, Department for Education
- Susan Acland-Hood, Permanent Secretary, Department for Education
- Name PHE

Taskforce, No 10, SpAds & PSs

- Kathy Hall, Director General, Covid-19 Taskforce [Senior Sec]
- Ollie Munn, Director, COVID-19 Taskforce
- Sean Harford, Director, COVID-19 Taskforce
- Imran Shafi, Private Secretary, No 10
- Sean Harford, Director, Covid-19 Taskforce
- Name Redacted No 10
- James Slack, PM's Official Spokesperson, No 10
- Dr Catherine Cutts, Chief Data Scientist, No 10
- Henry Cook, SpAd, No 10
- Name Redacted, SpAd, No 10
- Alex Burns, No10 PO
- Name SpAd, No10