

BRIEFING FOR FM's/CDL CALL – FESTIVE PERIOD

18 November, 16.30

Official Support – Paul Cackette and Penelope Cooper, Directors Outbreak Management

AGENDA

1. Determining a UK-wide approach to restrictions over the festive period

The UK Government and devolved administrations to discuss the opportunities for a UK-wide approach to restrictions over the festive period.

2. Determining a UK-wide approach to intra-UK travel

The UK Government and devolved administrations to discuss the opportunities for a UK-wide approach to intra-UK travel

3. Mass testing

The UK Government and devolved administrations to provide an update on approaches to mass testing

AOB

KEY POINTS/ STEERING BRIEF

- For the festive period, and soon, we need to give people rules they will actually comply with.
- Key principles:

Clarity – We need to give people clear rules which are seen to be fair.

Communication – We need to provide simple communications that clearly articulate the rules, so that people are able to follow them.

Coherence – The rules need to be coherent and make sense in a broader context (e.g. rules for hospitality etc)

- For example, to say that people from more than one household, with limits on numbers, may meet indoors once during the festive period, including travelling and staying the night where necessary.
- We need Four Nations coherence on this. Can we agree to get our officials to put a proposal to us next week?

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

- We continue to follow the approach set out in our Strategic Framework. As of Friday, 11 local authority areas across western and central Scotland will enter Level 4 restrictions for 3 weeks. Level 4 is intended to be short and sharp.
- This is specifically intended to have an impact in advance of the festive season and the challenging winter period.
- It would be helpful to understand what plans England have for the easing of lockdown restrictions from 2 December and how festive planning interacts with the tiers approach?

ADDITIONAL BRIEFING

ANNEX A – Festive planning

ANNEX B – Intra-UK travel

ANNEX C – Testing

ANNEX A – FESTIVE PERIOD

Cabinet Office proposal and official level discussions

Official level discussions this morning was light on detail, especially on what measures England is considering. Cabinet has outlined a possible way of easing of COVID protection measures for England, allowing a small number of households to 'bubble up' for the festive period, forming a discrete and exclusive social group. For announcement as England comes out of its lockdown on 2 December, although officials believe that there will be some form of announcement next week (date not specified)

- The aim is to allow people to enjoy a traditional family Christmas as far as possible.
- There is full acknowledgement of the complexity of the task and the difficulties of making policy changes on top of the pre-existing COVID policy frameworks already existing in the four nations.
- There is a significant degree of pragmatism among the four nations on behaviour over Christmas. This is based on the belief (supported by polling conducted so far) that there is a limited extent to which people's behaviour at Christmas can be managed or controlled.
- The period of easement would allow individuals to come out their present locked-down households and bubbles to form new bubbles, as well as travelling to family for a short period over Christmas day itself.
- This would be a cautious easement (e.g. 24-26/28 Dec), rather than an extended period, and it would include only Christmas.
- Strong appetite in Cabinet Office to apply measures nationally, so they are simple to implement, easy to communicate, and perceived to be fair to all.
- Focus on the period each side of Christmas to drive down infection rates. January and the post-Christmas period will require a substantial degree of anticipation and planning in itself.

Scottish Government considerations

We want as normal a Christmas as possible for the population, while minimising the risk to the public of increased infection rates from increased social activity and travel.

We need to give people rules they will comply with – and Four Nations coherence is important here.

Officials are ready to engage with 4 Nations on the detail of proposals.

This is wider than simply looking at the socialising measures. We need to address challenges from across the policy spectrum and ensure a 4 harms approach is taken. The levels approach set out in our Strategic Framework provides a good framework to do this as it is flexible and can be applied regionally and nationally. Strategic Advice about the festive period will be sent to the First Minister early next week, including an update on discussions with Cabinet Office.

ANNEX B – INTRA-UK TRAVEL

[Redacted]

Positions on travel restrictions - England, Wales and Northern Ireland

England

From 5 November, English regulations require people to stay at home with limited exemptions which do not include going on holiday. This will largely prevent non-essential cross border travel from England to Scotland.

There is no ban on international travel per se, but the stay-at-home restriction prevents people going on holiday abroad. Arrivals are subject to broadly the same quarantine regime as for Scotland, though sometimes different views have been taken about the country/region exception list.

Wales

Travel restrictions under the “circuit breaker” lockdown were broadly similar to those described above for England. That ended on 9 November with Wales returning to a lower level of restrictions that allow travel within Wales and holiday accommodation. However, a ban on all non-essential travel into and out of Wales, including to countries overseas, will be maintained. Wales also has international travel quarantine requirements similar to England and Scotland.

Previously Wales had bans on non-essential travel in and out of individual locked-down local authority areas, including between adjacent areas with the same restriction, and to and from high-prevalence areas elsewhere in the UK, enforced by police spot checks and if necessary FPNs. Welsh officials reported high levels of public compliance.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland does not have travel restrictions as such, but it has been a requirement in law from 16 October for people not to stay overnight away from home without a reasonable excuse. That is accompanied by complete closure of tourist accommodation within Northern Ireland. These measures effectively preclude tourist travel to or from the rest of the UK. (England had a similar sleep-at-home legal requirement nationally as part of its initial exit from the spring lock-down, and slightly longer for Leicester, but that was repealed in the summer.) An international travel quarantine requirement is similar to that in England and Scotland.

ANNEX C – MASS TESTING

Suggested points to make

- We are planning to pilot neighbourhood mass testing within areas of stubborn prevalence in early December, with a view to extending this in January.
- Continuing a collaborative approach, sharing lessons between each nation as we learn them, will help maximise impact on transmission rates.
- Early clarity from the UK on what practical support will be made available through the national testing programme would be welcome.

Background

England: Our current understanding is that the UK Government is still planning to begin regional testing on 2nd Dec when England is due to end lockdown. However, they are looking to spread this over a 6-8 week period.

Wales: We are working with colleagues in the Welsh Government to better understand planning for whole town testing of Merthyr Tydfil (population 60,000) from 21 Nov to 12 Dec. This is likely to involve the deployment of around 140 military personal.

Northern Ireland: Are supportive of the concept but are investigating a delivery model that would not involve use of the military. We are in close contact with the officials developing their plans.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care will be setting out our plans for geographic mass testing to Parliament next week. This is expected to:

- Draw on lessons from the ongoing pilot in Liverpool, and imminent plans for whole town testing in locations such as Merthyr Tydfil.
- Be focused on around eight neighbourhoods (3-7,000 people) at a time in areas now within Level 4, who have stubbornly high levels of prevalence. Neighbourhoods would be identified by local partners.
- Bring together existing (e.g. Mobile Testing Units using PCR) and new (e.g. Lateral Flow Devices deployed through Asymptomatic Test Sites) capabilities. We are also considering where waste water testing could add value.
- Take place in the first week of December, with proposals for larger scale and more sustained mass testing in January being developed.

A Military Liaison Officer (MLOs) has been assigned to work with officials to identify where military aid may be necessary. Further MLOs are being requested through a MACA to support planning at a Board level and should be in place by Monday.

Colleagues in relevant Local Authorities and NHS Boards have been informally consulted and indicated their support. Full briefings are being scheduled for Thursday. Officials are also being briefed today on emerging lessons from Liverpool. Analysts are looking at potential geographies/neighbourhoods that could be in scope.

AGENDA (official support – Penelope Cooper, Director, Outbreak Management)

1. **Approach to intra-UK travel** – *The UK Government and DAs to discuss principles to help underpin activity and communications surrounding intra-UK travel.*
2. **Approach to January 2021** - *The UKG and DAs to discuss respective approaches to the post-Christmas period, including any opportunities for further alignment and collaboration.*
3. **AOB.**

1. APPROACH TO INTRA-UK TRAVEL

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

On Christmas:

- The Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity will be joining Covid-O tomorrow to discuss Christmas travel.
- Transport Scotland has a detailed winter planning and resilience programme for the winter period into the New Year and transport officials are meeting regularly with DfT counterparts.
- Our messaging is that people should think carefully before they travel over the Christmas period
- On public transport, Transport Scotland is assessing capacity and demand on the network over the festive period with the aim of addressing pressure points rather than encouraging travel
- At this stage, we do not anticipate general availability problems. There will be pressure on the cross-border rail network, particularly with the closure of Kings Cross station from 24 December for works. We are liaising with DfT on their plans to run longer trains and for rail replacement coach services.
- We are exploring with DfT demand information they may have on likely cross border travel to Scotland.
- We will be running a communications campaign asking people to consider whether they need to travel, to plan ahead and book ahead.
- [redacted]

2. APPROACH TO JANUARY 2021

- Our levels approach is successfully suppressing the spread of the virus and, all things being equal, we would expect to see all local authorities moving down the levels to reach a stable state of very low prevalence.
- Barring any unforeseen developments, the next levels allocation on 15 December will be further reviewed at the first Cabinet meeting of 2021, on 5 January.
- We have been clear that no further easing of measures is planned into the New Year.
- We will be considering in the next couple of weeks whether any changes to the content of different levels, particularly as they affect hospitality, could safely be made.
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- **On Term 2 schools return**, we have announced that outwith the planned holiday dates, we expect schools to remain open. Blended or remote learning is already working as a contingency where required based on local public health advice, or where the local authority judges it is not safe to open due to a shortage of staff.
- [redacted]
- **[redacted]**

- The DFM announced yesterday the cancellation of the Higher and Advanced Higher exam diet in 2021. By doing this, we are seeking to address concerns over wellbeing and anxiety, and to deliver certainty to learners, parents and teachers and lecturers.
- **On semester 2 college and university return**, universities will stagger the restart of in-person teaching and the return of undergraduate students to their term time accommodation over at least 6 weeks. College students – who largely do not move away from home to go to education – should return as planned, in line with the protection level for their college’s area.
- With only very limited exceptions, undergraduate students will restart their studies at home, at the normal beginning of term, and should only return to their term-time accommodation when asked to do so by their university.
- To minimise the risk to themselves and others on their return to their term-time household, we are asking students to voluntarily reduce their social mixing for two weeks before and two weeks after returning to university.
- We have said that testing will be put in place for the return of students in the New Year and the details of this will also be set out shortly. We will also publish guidance and an FAQ for students which set out our plans for semester 2 in more detail and will continue to work closely with the sectors, students and unions.

3. AOB/BACKGROUND BRIEFING

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

VACCINE AND REPORTS OF ALLERGIC REACTION

- We currently have no plans to provide specific certification for people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine.
- We are aware of two isolated instances of an anaphylactic-type reaction to the vaccine in England yesterday. The MHRA has been informed and the CMOs across the UK have decided that the vaccination programme is to continue with exclusion of individuals with previous history of severe allergic reaction to anything.
- All NHS Boards have been informed of this and of the steps that are needed to ensure vaccinations can continue in a safe manner. **Safety is at the centre of our approach.**
- We are working through the implications of revised delivery to ensure it is fully compliant with this new clinical guidance. This will include consideration of the impact on care homes, as there needs to be rapid access to the appropriate level of required resuscitation facilities.

COMMUNITY ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING (CAT)

- CAT is being piloted in three health board areas, spanning five Local Authorities currently in Level 4 (moving to Level 3 on Friday).
- This will utilise a mixture of existing and new testing technology: mobile testing units using PCR and asymptomatic test sites using lateral flow devices.
- An asymptomatic test site, as piloted in Liverpool, opened in Johnstone on 2nd December (Renfrewshire) utilising lateral flow devices (LFD) providing a rapid test result in 45 minutes or less without laboratory processing.
- While CAT will seek to target small focused communities (size 3-20k), it will inform plans for a larger scale deployment early next year if found to be effective.

LATEST 4 NATIONS DATA

- The latest 4 nations modelling data can be found in the Appendix below. The figures are provisional and will be signed off by SAGE on Thursday afternoon, so are not final until confirmed at 17:30 tomorrow.

APPENDIX - Modelling Covid 19 across 4 UK nations
09 December 2020

Purpose

1. This short paper updates the modelling results for the four nations of the UK. This shows current estimates of R_t , the number of new infectious people per day and daily deaths.

Method

2. The Scottish Government uses publicly available NRS data on the number of Covid-19 related deaths up to 01 December for Scotland.
3. Academic groups reporting to SAGE through SPI-M are using various modelling methods. Their results, as presented on 09 December, are summarised below. These are not finalised and released publically until after the SAGE meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Estimates of R_t

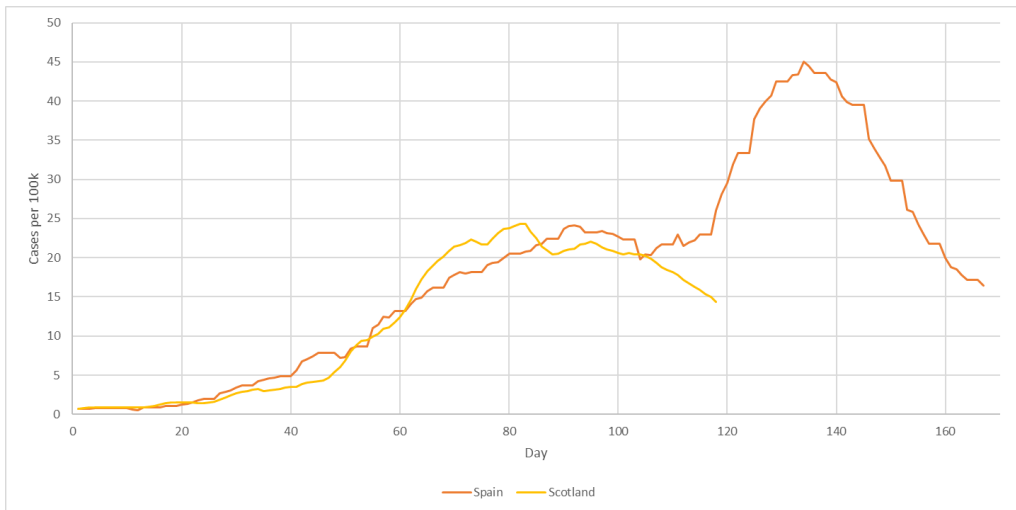
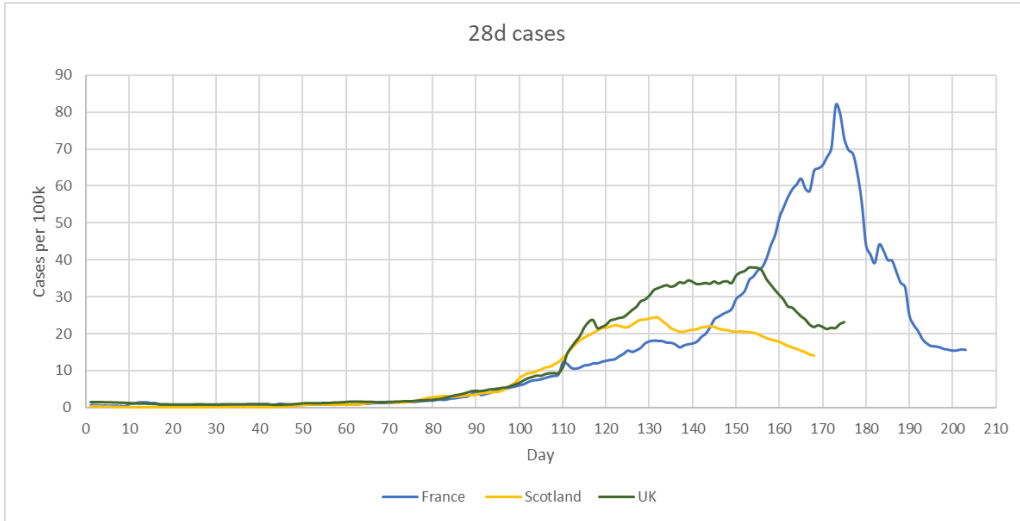
4. The preliminary view of SAGE, taking into account all UK modelling groups presenting a value for Scotland on 09 December, is that the overall **R_t in Scotland is between 0.7 and 0.9**. This figure is subject to revision by SAGE, but the values for Scotland are not expected to change. The estimate of the consensus statement for the previous week of 02 December was Scotland was between 0.8 and 1.0.
5. The preliminary table below shows the variations in R_t across the UK nations.

	Lower limit	Upper limit	Change in the last week
Scotland	0.7	0.9	Lower and upper limits decreasing
England	0.8	1.0	Lower and upper limits constant
Wales	0.9	1.2	Lower and upper limits increasing
NI	0.8	1.1	Lower limit constant and upper limit increasing

International Comparisons

6. The epidemic trajectory in Scotland, expressed as a rolling 7-day average of new cases per 100,000 population, was following that seen in France, lagged by 4 weeks and with a 6 week

lag behind Spain. Given that cases in Scotland have fallen in recent weeks, this comparison is becoming less credible. See charts below.



Daily Deaths

- 7. Estimated number of people who will die each day with Covid (95% confidence intervals in parentheses), from Scottish Government modelling.

Date	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland
23/11/2020	25 (22 - 29)	332 (300 - 369)	29 (25 - 33)	12 (10 - 14)
30/11/2020	24 (21 - 29)	338 (298 - 384)	29 (25 - 33)	12 (11 - 15)
07/12/2020	23 (19 - 29)	342 (294 - 398)	28 (24 - 34)	13 (11 - 16)
14/12/2020	22 (18 - 28)	343 (286 - 413)	28 (23 - 34)	14 (11 - 17)
21/12/2020	21 (16 - 27)	342 (277 - 426)	27 (21 - 33)	14 (11 - 18)

Growth Rates

- 8. SAGE are producing consensus estimates of daily growth rates of the epidemic across the 4 Nations. These show the epidemic is declining at varying rates across the UK.

	Daily Growth Rate	Lower limit	Upper limit	Change in the last week

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England	-1%	-2%	0%	Daily Growth rate and lower limit increasing with upper limit constant
Wales	2%	-1%	4%	Daily Growth rate, lower limit and upper limit increasing
Scotland	-3%	-5%	-2%	Daily Growth rate, lower and upper limits decreasing
NI	-1%	-3%	1%	Daily Growth rate, lower and upper limits increasing

SPI-M Estimates of Daily new infections

9. SPI-M produce consensus estimates of the number of new daily infections for Scotland.

Consensus Date	Estimated new daily infections per 100,000			Estimated new daily infections		
	Mid	Lower	Upper	Mid	Lower	Upper
09/09/2020	5	0	13	270	0	700
16/09/2020	11	1	22	620	60	1,175
23/09/2020	20	8	32	1,090	460	1,720
30/09/2020	52	21	83	2,880	1,160	4,600
07/10/2020	105	35	176	5,750	1,890	9,600
14/10/2020	222	96	347	12,100	5,200	18,900
21/10/2020	242	154	330	13,200	8,400	18,000
28/10/2020	233	130	337	12,700	7,100	18,400
04/11/2020	153	90	216	8,400	4,900	11,800
11/11/2020	98	46	150	5,400	2,500	8,200
18/11/2020	82	42	122	4,500	2,300	6,700
25/11/2020	86	57	115	4,700	3,100	6,300
02/12/2020	63	44	82	3,400	2,400	4,500
09/12/2020	57	39	76	3,100	2,100	4,200

10. The daily number of new people becoming infected is cumulative. Should the most recent consensus estimate be reflective of the preceding week, up to 29,000 people may have been infected between 03 – 09 December.

AGENDA (official support – Penelope Cooper, Director, Outbreak Management)

1. **Christmas measures**
2. [redacted – out of scope]
3. **AOB**

1. CHRISTMAS MEASURES

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- We are keen to work with other nations to ensure that communications on the festive easing strike a very cautious tone – this has been the SG’s approach from the outset, with our key messages being:
 - just because you can form a bubble, it doesn’t mean you should – think very carefully and consider alternative ways of spending Christmas;
 - if you do choose to form a bubble, limit contact with others before and afterwards and think about how to reduce risk – e.g. consider meeting outside, adhere to physical distancing and hygiene measures, limit time spent with your bubble, ventilate any indoor spaces where meeting in homes.
- It is important to recognise and highlight in communications in the coming week that cases are rising across the UK, underlining the need for people to act carefully and responsibly.
[redacted]
- [redacted]

Current context

England

- London and parts of Essex and Hertfordshire will enter Tier 3 measures tomorrow. This puts 34 million people under the most restrictive measures.
- A new variant of coronavirus may be contributing to the faster spread of the virus in the south east of England, and more than 1,000 cases have been recorded across 60 council areas.
- Leader of the Opposition Sir Keir Starmer has today written to the Prime Minister to call for COBR committee to be recalled and to revisit the agreed 4-Nations festive easings.
- Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, spoke to the media this morning to call for all schools to close early. He also called for adjustments to the festive easing, but said that this would have to be done on a four-nation basis due to UK-wide travel expected over the festive period.

Wales

- Wales reverted on a nationwide basis on 9 November to less stringent measures after a 17-day firebreak, but subsequently introduced restrictions across the hospitality industry and indoor leisure venues on 4 December.
- The Welsh Government directed secondary schools and colleges to move all learning online from 14 December in response to a deteriorating public health situation and an R-value of 1.27.
- The new strain of coronavirus has already been detected in Wales.

Northern Ireland

- Northern Ireland exited a two-week circuit-breaker lockdown on Friday 11 December and has opened up non-essential shops cafes, coffee shops, pubs, bars and restaurants, among other facilities.
- The Northern Ireland Health Minister, Robin Swann, commented on the same day that more restrictions in the new year were “inevitable”, and cautioned people on appropriate behaviour over the festive period.
- The six health trusts of Northern Ireland have indicated concern for the period after Christmas and have warned of ‘unbearable pressures’ on the system from an anticipated spike in cases. They have also appealed to the public for restraint in behaviour over the festive period.

[2. [redacted – out of scope]

AGENDA (official support – Penelope Cooper, Director, Outbreak Management)

1. Reflections on current NPIs – *The UKG and DAs to reflect on the current restrictions across the UK and discuss areas of concern, including any likely further action.*

2. Vaccines - *The UKG and DAs to discuss respective their respective vaccine strategies including on deployment, supply and data publication.*

3. AOB.

Annex A – Paper - Modelling Covid 19 across 4 UK nations, 13 January 2021”

Annex B – Table - Categories of individuals in Scotland who received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination by eligibility criteria and week [redact section 28 relations with other administrations]

1. REFLECTIONS ON CURRENT NPIs

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

In addition to placing mainland Scotland in Level 4 measures from Boxing Day morning, since then **further restrictions have been implemented. The first set, announced on 4 Jan is based around three major elements:** staying at home, working from home, and changing rules governing socialising outside the home. The main points are:

- Putting the stay at home guidance into law,
- A reduction in the number of people from different households who can meet outdoors from 6 people from 2 households to 2 people from 2 households (excluding children under 12);
- More than 2 adults or children over 12 cannot meet for organised outdoor exercise/ sport;
- Current exemptions for young people aged 12 -17 which allowed up to 6 to meet outdoors will no longer apply; and
- Places of worship are closed for worship, weddings are permitted with reduced numbers (5/6) and wakes and post-funeral gatherings are no longer allowed.

A further six measures have been announced today, 13 Jan:

- Restriction to click and collect services to only those retails selling items deemed essential.
- Restriction to takeaway services and circulation of customers inside a café or restaurant.
- Forbidding consumption of alcohol outdoors.
- Strengthening employee obligation to allow staff to work from home.
- Tightening restrictions on working within a private dwelling, eg for trades personnel.
- Tightening restrictions for people ‘not to remain outside’ when they are staying at home.

The measures of the Scottish Government’s Strategic Framework are kept under review and will be updated as appropriate as the pandemic develops; we will work alongside other UK nations.

TEST AND PROTECT

- In the week ending 3 Jan: **11,993 individuals (12,028 cases, of which 10,689 have completed contact tracing)** were recorded in the software. **37,744 contacts have been traced.**
- We continue to monitor the numbers of index cases and those traced in Scotland to assure ourselves that messages are getting across to the general public and contacts are being traced.

FACE COVERINGS

- Due to its higher transmission rate **the presence of new variant of COVID found in the UK since December 2020 means face coverings to have a more significant role.**
- The British Standards Institute (BSI) are developing a British Standard for face coverings. A revised final version will be available in February 2021.
- The quality of face coverings has been of interest and the **Scottish Government has been in discussions with the Devolved Nations to work towards addressing quality standards.**
- SG recognises that there are situations where a person is unable to, or it would be inappropriate, to wear a face covering and **a Scottish Government exemption card has been developed.** The exemption card is branded with the NHS Scotland and Healthier Scotland logo and produced under the FACTS for a safer Scotland campaign.

- We are also aware that **face coverings cause additional challenges for some individuals**, including those who are deaf or rely on lip reading and facial expressions to communicate.
- SG has been **working to explore options for transparent face coverings**.

QUARANTINE

- All travellers from a country which is non-exempt from quarantine rules **arriving in Scotland are required to quarantine for a period of 10 days**.
- There are exemptions for essential activities, such as critical infrastructure, and sectors where arrivals can be kept in a 'bubble' such as agriculture and film.
- We are proceeding with our own evaluation of test to release, working with representatives from Scotland's main commercial airports to model the potential impact, and will decide whether we are reassured that test to release can be implemented in a way that minimises risk.
- **Any announcements by the UK Government must be very clear that they apply to England only** [subject to decisions by Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive Ministers].

PRE-DEPARTURE TESTING

- **From Friday 15 Jan passengers arriving from international destinations will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test result** before entering Scotland. (Limited exemptions).
- The test should be taken no more than 3 days before departure and should either be a PCR or meet a minimum specificity and sensitivity standard (which would effectively mean a PCR test).
- **The move is in addition to existing measures**. Passengers arriving from countries not on the Government's Travel Corridor list will still need to self-isolate for 10 days regardless of their pre-departure test result.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING (TRANSPORT)

- Our approach to physical distancing has been **guided by clinical evidence**, expert advice and a balanced approach of risks.
- **The high transmissibility of the new strain of COVID and increasing number of cases make physical distancing more important than ever** and the public have been asked to redouble their personal efforts and observe 2m distancing.
- **The exemption to the 2-m distancing, to allow 1-m distancing in hospitality (currently closed) and transport sectors only, is subject to appropriate mitigations**.
- To date, DfT have confirmed that they are not currently considering moving from 1m to the 2m distancing, but **we understand SAGE are doing a review of 1m to 2m on public transport**.
- SG has raised the issue with Cabinet Office/Department for Health and Social Care requesting any information they are able to provide on policy direction. We await a response.

VENTILATION

- Good ventilation is well recognised as a primary measure to control risk of airborne transmission. We published standard guidance for domestic and non-domestic settings on 18 December.
- **The Scottish Government is supporting homes and businesses and will continue to work in partnership to provide guidance on ventilation**.

2. VACCINES

VACCINATIONS – HEADLINE STATISTICS ON DELIVERY AND SUPPLY

- From 8 Dec 20 to 11 Jan 2021, **163,377 individuals in Scotland have received their first COVID-19 vaccination dose. 2,758 people had received their second dose**.

- At Tuesday 12 January, a total of **331,800 doses of vaccine have been delivered** to Scotland to date – 292,500 Pfizer doses and 39,300 Oxford doses.
- A further **170, 975 doses are available to Scotland but not yet delivered** (5164,775 Pfizer vaccine and 6,200 Oxford vaccine).

VACCINATION ROLL-OUT, PRIORITISATION, AND PLANNING

- **Vaccination roll-out** began in Scotland on 8 Dec, initially using the Pfizer vaccine.
- On 4 Jan, the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine began to be administered in primary care settings in NHS Tayside, Lothian, Orkney and Highland.
- Scotland will also receive a population-proportionate share of the Moderna vaccine, expected from April, and incorporate it into our roll-out.
- **More than 1,100 vaccination sites** are now operational across Scotland.
- These sites are mainly GP practices and community vaccination centres. We expect from March we will have a wider range of clinic settings in play, including community pharmacies, mobile vaccination units and larger centres.
- **Our vaccination plan**, supply allowing, is to provide at least the first dose everyone over 50, and those under 50 who are clinically extremely vulnerable.
- This covers JCVI priority groups 1 to 5 from the 8th December, a total of more than 1.1 million eligible individuals.
- By early February, we intend that all residents in care homes for older adults and care home staff in these settings as well as frontline health and social care workers and those aged 80 and over living in the community will have received their first vaccine dose.
- We hope to vaccinate all those on JCVI prioritisation list by end spring 2021.
- **We are prioritising vaccinating** those with greatest clinical need, in accordance with the advice of Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI).
- Initial supply, and constraints on vaccine transportation, mean we will initially focus our over-80s programme on care home residents and long-term hospital inpatients.
- We started by vaccinating healthcare staff working with direct face-to-face contact in health care settings, especially those in Covid-red areas in hospital, patients aged over 80 in long-stay elderly wards and those in care homes for older people.
- GPs are being offered vaccines as part the JCVI priority group as frontline health and social care staff, along with all vaccinators.
- This prioritisation includes limited numbers of non-clinical support staff working in Covid-19 red pathways and/or as part of vaccinations teams.
- We will continue to review prioritisation where appropriate to take account of other key groups includes such as teachers and the terminally ill.
- **Further vaccination planning arrangements** are built on top of the planning for the nearly planning for the two million doses of vaccine routinely delivered in Scotland every year and the comprehensive delivery infrastructure already in place.
- We have asked Health Boards to continue to recruit staff and surge numbers, with result that over 5,000 vaccinators are now registered, with further workforce planning to ensure we have the appropriate staffing to manage support.
- The Scottish Government has also now provided further guidance to Health Boards on vaccination during outbreaks, including outbreaks within a care home.
- We have built a Vaccine Management Tool (VMT) to collect data on vaccinations since 8 Dec. These are not the same systems in use in England; it has received positive feedback.
- The UK Vaccines Taskforce has secured access to 60m doses of the Valvena vaccine, developed in Livingston, and if the trials come to fruition, Scotland will receive a population proportionate share.
- [redacted]

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Modelling Covid 19 across 4 UK nations
13 January 2021

Purpose

1. This short paper updates the modelling results for the four nations of the UK. This shows current estimates of R_t , the number of new infectious people per day and daily deaths.

Method

2. The Scottish Government uses publicly available NRS data on the number of Covid-19 related deaths up to 6 January for Scotland.
3. Academic groups reporting to SAGE through SPI-M are using various modelling methods. Their results, as presented on 13 January, are summarised below. These are not finalised and released publically until after the SAGE meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Estimates of R_t

4. The preliminary view of SAGE, taking into account all UK modelling groups presenting a value for Scotland on 13 January, is that the overall R_t in Scotland is between **1 and 1.4**. This figure is subject to revision by SAGE, but the values for Scotland are not expected to change. The estimate of the consensus statement last week for Scotland was between 0.9 and 1.3.
5. The preliminary table below shows the variations in R_t across the UK nations.

	Lower limit	Upper limit	Change in the last week
Scotland	1	1.4	Lower limit increasing and upper limit increasing
England	1.1	1.3	Lower limit constant and upper limit decreasing
Wales	0.8	1.1	Lower limit constant and upper limit constant
NI	0.9	1.3	Lower limit decreasing and upper limit decreasing

Daily Deaths

6. Estimated number of people who will die each day with Covid (95% confidence intervals in parentheses), from Scottish Government modelling.

Date	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland
21/12/2020	31 (27 - 38)	470 (407 - 567)	29 (18 - 38)	13 (11 - 15)
28/12/2020	29 (25 - 38)	492 (414 - 626)	28 (15 - 40)	14 (12 - 17)
04/01/2021	27 (22 - 38)	509 (418 - 685)	27 (11 - 42)	14 (12 - 18)
11/01/2021	25 (19 - 37)	526 (416 - 739)	26 (9 - 44)	14 (12 - 19)
18/01/2021	23 (16 - 36)	540 (413 - 797)	25 (7 - 46)	14 (12 - 21)

Growth Rates

7. SAGE are producing consensus estimates of daily growth rates of the epidemic across the 4 Nations. These show the epidemic is declining at varying rates across the UK.

	Daily Growth Rate	Lower limit	Upper limit	Change in the last week
England	3%	1%	4%	Daily growth rate decreasing, lower limit constant and upper limit decreasing
Wales	-2%	-4%	1%	Daily growth rate decreasing, lower limit constant and upper limit constant
Scotland	3%	0%	6%	Daily growth rate increasing, lower limit increasing and upper limit increasing
NI	1%	-2%	4%	Daily growth rate decreasing, lower limit decreasing and upper limit decreasing

SPI-M Estimates of Daily new infections

8. SPI-M produce consensus estimates of the number of new daily infections for Scotland.

Consensus Date	Estimated new daily infections per 100,000			Estimated new daily infections		
	Mid	Lower	Upper	Mid	Lower	Upper
04/11/2020	153	90	216	8,400	4,900	11,800
11/11/2020	98	46	150	5,400	2,500	8,200
18/11/2020	82	42	122	4,500	2,300	6,700
25/11/2020	86	57	115	4,700	3,100	6,300
02/12/2020	63	44	82	3,400	2,400	4,500
09/12/2020	57	39	76	3,100	2,100	4,200
16/12/2020	96	49	144	5,200	2,700	7,900
22/12/2020	80	35	125	4,400	1,900	6,800
06/01/2020	117	47	188	6,400	2,600	10,300
13/01/2020	175	89	262	9,600	4,900	14,300

9. The daily number of new people becoming infected is cumulative. Should the most recent consensus estimate be reflective of the preceding week, up to 100,000 people may have been infected between 7–13 January.

Categories of individuals in Scotland who received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination by eligibility criteria and week

Week ending	Categories of individuals who received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination				
	Healthcare worker	Care Home Staff	Care Home Resident	Social Care Worker	Other
13 Dec 20	15,199	2,530	12	1,245	137
20 Dec 20	27,274	6,653	4,919	1,181	827
27 Dec 20	19,772	6,196	6,957	800	1,468
03 Jan 21	12,138	3,485	4,809	447	1,625
10 Jan 21	27,571	6,044	6,790	4,238	3,919
TOTAL	101,954	24,908	23,487	7,911	7,976

‡ Individuals can appear in more than one eligibility criteria.

*Other category includes: Age 80 & over, Age-Group (if an individual has been identified as being in one of the current priority areas), Care At Home, Clinically At Risk Age 16 – 64, Clinically Extremely Vulnerable/Shielding, Shielding Household, Unpaid Carer, Other. Note: Coverage data by eligibility criteria cannot currently be reported as work is ongoing to establish robust denominator data for these eligibility categories.

Scottish Government will publish information on the estimated population in each JCVI priority group to allow users to track progress of the vaccination programme. For example, for JCVI priority group 1 which includes all residents in a care home for older adults and their carers, the Scottish Care Home Safety Huddle Tool can be used to provide an estimate of the number of residents and staff in care homes. Latest data estimates there are 30,000 residents and 45,000 staff in care homes for older adults.

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