

COVID-19 – DFM meeting with senior stakeholders – 1 September 2021

Introduction

- DFM welcomed representatives from all sectors, highlighting the precariousness of the current situation and the importance of all sectors working with SG to intensify action to help reduce the need for reintroducing further restrictions.
- CMO outlined the situation from a clinical perspective, and specifically the current understanding of the increased risks around the Delta variant and the associated rapid rate of growth in case numbers in recent weeks.
- NCD set out two asks – for all to push as hard as they can to go beyond legal obligations by doing as much as possible to i) make their environment safe and, ii) to make their people safe. He set out four areas that everyone should use all of their influence to increase:
 1. Vaccine – take up the vaccine and encourage others – it's a key defence
 2. Tests – encourage consistent use of twice weekly lateral flow tests
 3. Guidance – follow best practice and go further than legal obligations
 4. Home working – support where it is possible and practical to do so

Discussion

- It was recognised there is widespread community transmission of the virus and no one setting or sector is responsible, or is where intensified actions should be targeted. All sectors can help with increased action.
- SG is stepping up its role by intensifying public messaging; taking forward proposals on certification in certain settings; is ready to vaccinate 12 – 15 year olds once a JCVI decision made; and is accelerating vaccination of 16 years plus.
- A number of sectors called for a step change in the messaging from SG. Some suggested this could be a “renewed national endeavour” and building a cross-party consensus on a shared approach may be helpful. Moving FM's public briefings back to daily to send a very clear signal to the country that "this is serious" was also suggested.
- Retail, tourism and hospitality sectors asked about future plans on possible restrictions. Hospitality sought reassurance that individual sectors wouldn't be penalised because of spikes resulting from school / university returning. DFM noted the purpose of this meeting was to identify action that helps avoid the need for restrictions but indicated any steps taken will be targeted and proportionate.
- Hospitality industry highlighted the importance of public support – more people saying they are exempt from face coverings and not engaging with contact tracing. However, they indicated the vast majority of hospitality premises are already going above and beyond with measures (maintaining table service, one-way systems, screens, distancing between tables etc). Sector keen to support in any way that may help avoid need for vaccine certification in general hospitality.
- Transport stakeholders noted evidence of a relatively high degree of compliance with their customers. Aviation has already applied vaccine status rules on travel and this was commended to others. However, issues around enforcement and challenging behaviours remain on some modes from more complacent groups (typically young people) and those travelling from outside of Scotland where different rules apply. The sector will continue to reinforce messaging, including the use of face coverings and LFTs, and would support transport hubs being used for vaccine pop ups. Increased visibility of Police Scotland at bus stops and even on vehicles in addition to targeted govt messaging may be helpful.

- International vaccination certificates going digital was welcomed and assurances were sought that SG is working with Airline, tourism and business travellers to design/develop practicalities of implementation/monitoring/enforcing.
- Events and live music industries provided assurance on their support, including offering to host pop up vaccination centres at events (e.g. TRNSMT). Also keen to engage with SG in further dialogue on finalising proposals around certification. Important to ensure clarity of messaging around certification – some see announcement as a ‘green light’ for large events but needs to align with strong messaging on intensified action on other measures. The Open Championship tested certification and R&A can share learnings via the EIAG.
- Scottish Chambers and other business organisations keen to work with SG officials to improve targeting of marketing materials that may help address behaviour patterns (and perhaps longer term cultural shifts) – consistency of messaging is key, including addressing the “why should we?” points.
- CERG highlighted the need for consistent messages and suggested a conflict in schools where desire to vaccinate 12-15 year olds appears at odds with changes to contact tracing / isolation for pupils which have resulted in more in school transmission. CMO noted a review of self-isolation and contact tracing policy in schools is under review.
- Cultural sector remain concerned about maintaining physical distancing for performers on stage and suggested some relaxation there could build more support behind all the other needed measures.
- NDNA Scotland noted its willingness to support member nurseries in PVI Early Learning and Childcare to ensure they are following guidance and doing all they can to protect the children and families that use their settings. ELC guidance already has different levels of mitigations built into it.
- STUC confirmed it would be happy to put out a joint statement with employers and SG on the importance of keeping as many as possible working from home
- UKActive noted its earlier work with UKG to offer incentives via its members to encourage people to get double vaccinated and indicated a willingness to have similar discussions with SG on how this may be replicated in Scotland.
- Local Government committed to continue to spread and target compliance messages, working with Public Health Scotland and SG.

Points to take forward

- **Provide new materials to all sectors that support messaging to customers and staff on key messaging (4 things need people to do)**
- **Officials to work with Scottish Chambers to see what more chamber network can do at local levels and to support consistency of messaging.**
- **Vaccine pop-ups – engage with Transport sector hubs (e.g. Waverly, Glasgow Central etc) and large events (TRNSMT)**
- **Explore increased police presence/visibility at bus stops, stations and on transport**
- **Additional engagement with events sector on Certification – support on lessons learned and issues around practical use**
- **Follow up joint statement with STUC on home working**
- **Follow up engagement with UKActive on incentivising vaccinations**
- **Explore cross-party consensus on public messaging from Ministers**

List of attendees

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
John Swinney (Chair)	Deputy First Minister	[Redacted]	Innis and Gunn
[Redacted]	Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland	[Redacted]	Support in Mind Scotland
[Redacted]	Western Ferries	[Redacted]	R&A
[Redacted]	Cross Country Trains	[Redacted]	NAFD Scotland
[Redacted]	Musicians Union	[Redacted]	Loganair
[Redacted]	Scottish Borders Council	[Redacted]	Dundee City Council
Callum McCaig	Scottish Government	Keith Brown	Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans
[Redacted]	TLT Solicitors	[Redacted]	Amev
[Redacted]	Scottish Agri Tourism	[Redacted]	EIS
[Redacted]	Fife Council	[Redacted]	South Ayrshire Council
[Redacted]	Lidl	[Redacted]	UK Hospitality
[Redacted]	Mcgills busses	[Redacted]	Network Rail
[Redacted]	SCDI	[Redacted]	MEND, Muslim Engagement and Development
[Redacted]	COSLA	[Redacted]	Scottish Chambers
[Redacted]	Federation of Small Businesses	Liz Ditchburn	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Innis and Gunn	[Redacted]	IoD
[Redacted]	Aldi	[Redacted]	Museums Galleries Scotland
[Redacted]	SFA	[Redacted]	BBC
[Redacted]	STUC	[Redacted]	Scottish Tourism Alliance
[Redacted]	LNER	[Redacted]	Scottish Exhibition Campus
[Redacted]	Scottish Retail Consortium	[Redacted]	Edinburgh International Conference Centre
[Redacted]	ScotRail	[Redacted]	Transpennine Express
[Redacted]	Scottish Racing	[Redacted]	Glasgow Life
[Redacted]	Glasgow and Aberdeen Airports	[Redacted]	Tesco
Dominic Munro	Scottish Government	[Redacted]	Church of Scotland
[Redacted]	Network Rail	[Redacted]	Scottish Contemporary Art Network
[Redacted]	Trac Scotland	[Redacted]	Visit Scotland
[Redacted]	Marks and Spencer	[Redacted]	SAB Advisory
[Redacted]	First Bus	[Redacted]	P&J Live
[Redacted]	Scottish Wedding Industry Alliance	[Redacted]	COSLA

[Redacted]	Scottish Beer and Pub Association	[Redacted]	Aldi
[Redacted]	SRC	[Redacted]	Scottish Libraries
[Redacted]	Scottish Theatre	[Redacted]	Visit Scotland
[Redacted]	John O'Groats Ferries	[Redacted]	Co-op
[Redacted]	Northlink Ferries	[Redacted]	Bectu
[Redacted]	Food Standards Scotland	[Redacted]	Scottish Beer and Pub Association
[Redacted]	Scottish Chamber Orchestra	[Redacted]	CPT
[Redacted]	DF Concerts	Penelope Cooper	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Transport for Edinburgh	[Redacted]	Scottish Exhibition Campus
[Redacted]	Edinburgh Airport	[Redacted]	West Coast Rail
[Redacted]	University of Strathclyde	[Redacted]	ASDA
[Redacted]	Scottish Childminding Association	[Redacted]	Visit Scotland
[Redacted]	SRU	[Redacted]	Visit Scotland
[Redacted]	Police Scotland	[Redacted]	CalMac Ferries
[Redacted]	Civil Engineering Contractors Association	[Redacted]	My Scotland Wedding
[Redacted]	SFE	[Redacted]	STUC
[Redacted]	Greene King	[Redacted]	COSLA
[Redacted]	CBI	[Redacted]	Stagecoach
Gregor Smith	Scottish Government	[Redacted]	SCDI
[Redacted]	Fire Scotland	[Redacted]	Scottish Land and Estates
[Redacted]	British Horse Society	[Redacted]	NFUS
[Redacted]	UK Active	[Redacted]	STV
[Redacted]	BEAR Scotland	[Redacted]	Innis and Gunn
Ian McWatt	Food Standards Scotland	[Redacted]	Fife Council
[Redacted]	Care and Learning Alliance	[Redacted]	Sports Scotland
[Redacted]	ASDA	[Redacted]	Iceland
[Redacted]	CBI	[Redacted]	Relationships Scotland
[Redacted]	SFD	[Redacted]	Surgeons Quarter
[Redacted]	Early Years Scotland	[Redacted]	Federation of Small Businesses
[Redacted]	Raise the Roof Productions	[Redacted]	ORR
[Redacted]	COSLA	[Redacted]	CBI
[Redacted]	Scottish Music Industry Association	[Redacted]	SPT
Jason Leitch	Scottish Government		