

Centralised COVID Governance Minutes



Meeting Name: HCS STAC

Date & Time: 30/04/2020 0730-0930

Room: Boardroom 4th Floor PCH

Attendees: Refer to STAC Terms of Reference for membership

1. Introduction and update

Minute	<p>Meeting called specifically to review the 4 stages of exiting through lockdown 4 stage strategy presented (v0.6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-The short timeframe in giving this advice will affect the quality of the evidence and advice provided by STAC. <p>Decision: ALL in agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-MM at emergency council yesterday reiterated that evidence from STAC will change as scientific advice is available. We could use this caveat for the short time frame on this occasion but going forward more time must be given. <p>Action: MM will feedback the need for greater request for time frames from the ministers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ministers are planning to announce on Friday that stage 3 will begin around 12th May.-Do we have a summary for the public to present the fundamentals of the staging? No narrative currently. This will be addressed in the guiding principles agreed by STAC.-PA suggested that the label of 'stage' should be amended to level. Stage implies a timeframe, whereas level implies a more fluid model to move between as needed. also to be labelled 1-4 instead of 4-1. <p>Decision: All in agreement that the label 'stage' is amended to 'level'</p> <p>Action: MM will update the labelling of the current 4 stages to 4 levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-The aim of this meeting is to restrict contact between people and cut down risk between people. Such as risk of being outdoors, age over 65, vulnerable and severely vulnerable.-The bigger picture revolves around people getting back to work and supporting the economy.-Is there is less transmission outdoors? This is correct-We must ensure that all areas of health are considered.-Overall narrative is that when it is safe to do so levels are moved through stressing that there may still be need to have some restrictions. We cannot look at advising future stages at this point and need to concentrate on the next move. <p>Decision: We cannot plan all the levels at this stage until we see the implication and response to moving to stage 3 first.</p>
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2. Development of Guiding principles

Minute	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-We need to decide the guiding principles. This includes the numbers of cases at any one time, the perception of the public, the perceived incidence of Covid in the community along with balancing other health risks and health care. There is evidence coming out in reference to the longer term health impact to children education. The right of autonomy is paramount and allow individuals to make choices. As long as those choices are not damaging others and we can show and react to changes to the curve. <p>Decision: Guiding principles overarching all stages needed</p>
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	<p><u>Paragraph 1</u> To reduce and manage the curve Manage the public's perception Allow autonomy Areas where there is a strong evidence base can be mandated Health capacity in terms of the burden and the increase of burden to other illnesses Considering the health risks of social isolation and loneliness Reducing the risk of harm for all age groups across mental and physical health aspects short, medium and long-term Protecting at risk/vulnerable groups Considering wider and long-term impact of school closures and home schooling to children, in particular those from an under-privileged background, parents/carers</p> <p><u>Paragraph 2</u> Identifying risk areas indoor v outdoor Risk to individuals Identifying activities which increase risk ie closer contact Emphasis on respiratory, restroom and surface hygiene Direction of travel between levels [stages] can and will move between levels guided by incidence and changes to evidence</p>
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3. Review of stages

Minute	<p>-If education have decided to close schools until end of May, has the longer term been considered if we are working on a 4 week prediction? schools to stay closed until 22nd May but will increase the numbers of children to critical workers and vulnerable children whilst looking at the longer term and bigger picture. -Does there need to be a caveat that movement can go both ways between levels? We need to be very clear on what the levels mean in terms of movement and that they are not fixed. Decision: Agreements to the content of stage 3. -Cloth masks should be emphasised for use inside public areas. Supported with a message that this may allow for lifting of restrictions sooner. This needs thought as 'insisting' people do something causes ignorance. We will not suggest to make this mandatory but emphasise the potential benefits of wearing masks. -Suggestion to open in stages taken into account all of guiding principles. Starting with those least likely to cause spread ie opening up outdoor spaces before indoor spaces</p> <p><u>Stage 4</u> -Time outside is changing from 2-4 hours. Continued to be concerned that putting a time limit has negative impact on mental health. -Suggestion that by extending the time instead of reversing the time limit completely, helps ministerial and political decisions to give clearer messages in reinforcing small steps. This also supports that if we have to go backwards small steps forward are easier to reverse. -General health symptoms need to be empathised to support health, the principles of stay at home are ongoing. We need to make sure the public understand that stay at home does not mean do not access healthcare if unwell with other health concerns.</p>	
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-The basic principle of change is a move from a large blanket of lockdown and moving to isolating small groups where cases/contacts/+ve arise.

Action: MM will work up a narrative today

Stage 3

-Narrative around difference of social and physical distancing needed which makes more sense to the public and that this is a positive change. Agree that this should be part of stage 3.

Action: MM to change 'social' to 'physical' distancing on phase 3.

-Why is it a group of 5 people? There is no science but guidance and number needed to be selected for advice.

-Advice around people visiting private homes stays the same for phase 3 as for phase 4, that private homes are indoor spaces. Gardens are difficult because people may be more likely to move indoors.

-Potentially opening of schools after half term and closing as normal for summer hols. This is a political decision.

-Home schooling is very variable and along with delivery in schools. MM PH advice given and combined with operational matters – the choice of going for the whole half term and therefore the specific date was operational. Decisions given so far have not been from STAC, these will change with evidence, and STAC needs to be the forum for such advice in future.

-As a collective the advice already offered are not wrong but there are bigger issues around communicating them.

-We need to clarify the use of the term MoH, as interventions could be attributed inappropriately.

Decision: PA going forward decisions will develop on the conclusion of STAC.

Travel

-Discussion around travel to work was supportive of home working and distancing if physical attendance was necessary.

~~PA we support the concept of distancing in office/work spaces, however detailed guidance needs to be developed. PA we would expect working from home, implement hygiene measure, maintain physical distancing

Retail and hospitality

-The closing time of 2200 is open to debate and not scientific but following examples from other jurisdictions as sensible advice.

-Places of worship to stay closed. AM this needs to be reviewed as if we are opening large spaces then churches should be allowed up to 5 people also

Decision: Agreement that the principle should be the same as other facilities.

-Are outdoor businesses such as Durrell to reopen on 1st May? MM yes but only outdoor facilities, but this may not be in place by 1st May.

-How does this effect sports grounds if maintaining physical distancing? They can re open if physical distance maintained and indoor spaces ie changing rooms, club houses are closed.

4. AOB and questions

Minute	<p>-Private pilots can fly within jersey airspace to maintain their licence. A paper was brought to ministers yesterday this can be included around outdoor activities. The GP that performs pilot medicals can continue to do so.</p> <p>-Request for advice will come in quickly how do STAC want to be involved? Do STAC want to develop or approve?</p> <p>Decision: STAC will agree future guidelines.</p> <p>-MM curb side parish recycling begin tomorrow.</p>
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Key

-discussion

** action

~~decision