



Matt Hancock

It hasn't come to me but I know **Jo Churchill** was asking why can't schools buy their own - we are trying to reduce dependence on the central supply system and revert to wholesalers as much as is possible. But there must be a way of saying schools can access via **LRFs** if they have no alternative routes to get hold of any. I understand it's a tiny amount in case a child becomes symptomatic at school

19:51



Gavin Williamson

It was basically as a last resort so they can't use it as a reason not to open. All of them will but some will just want to say they can't so they have an excuse to avoid having to teach, what joys!!!

19:54



Matt Hancock

No problem. On that basis I'm sure we can sort

19:57

I've instructed **SPADs** to find a way through with yours - **Emma Dean** awaits at your service

20:10

5 February, 2021

Matt Hancock | Health Secretary
We are giving big families all the suites
and putting pop stars in the box
rooms

19:29



Simon Case | Permanent Secretary at
No 10

I just want to see some of the faces of
people coming out of first class and
into a premier inn shoe box

19:29



16 February, 2021

Simon Case

Any idea how many people we locked
up in hotels yesterday?

09:55



Matt Hancock
None. But 149 chose to enter the
country and are now in Quarantine
Hotels due to their own free will!

10:02



Simon Case

Hilarious

10:02



6 June, 2020



Boris Johnson | Prime Minister

How are we doing ?

How are the numbers ? Seem very hard to squeeze

Am thinking hard about the 15 June.

At the moment we could do

Non-essential retail

Some more for families

A bit of outdoor hospitality

And announce that we can't do all primary schools by July

But **Slackie** and **lee** still think the whole package will be too far ahead of public opinion

14:18

i



Matt Hancock | Health Secretary

Deaths yday (Friday) only 204. New cases 1505. So same story: coming down but slowly. **R** very close to one - hence the slow decline.

So I think Slackie and Lee have a point.

I am very worried about a free-for-all around non essential retail. The rules **BEIS** put in place were far too slack.

But I accept we have to let them start to come back.

I think it's too soon for outdoor hospitality - and they're not expecting it until next month. There aren't even guidelines in place, or the legal change. Everyone's accepted there won't be more on schools until Sept.

Then we could do a bit more for families eg on camping & zoos.

i



Boris Johnson | Prime Minister

Nowcasting and Forecasting of the
COVID-19 Pandemic

www.mrc-bus.cam.ac.uk

I am on a call with Raghiv and Carl Heneghan, who have been reflecting on yesterday. Heneghan refers us to the following nowcast of death data which demonstrates that *the death modelling you have been shown is already very wrong*:

<https://www.mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk/tackling-covid-19/nowcasting-and-forecasting-of-covid-19/>

He has given it to the Telegraph for tomorrow already. I am trying to get to the bottom of the extent to which it affects capacity modelling.

If this illustrates anything, it is that red teams can work but need to be formally established. But do you want the disruption of us continuing the red team tomorrow?

I will keep working.

16:48

The great Steve baker believes that the numbers of deaths have been exaggerated. It might be worth seeing what Heneghan is saying to telegraph.

16:50

Anyone have today's numbers ?

16:52



Simon Case | Permanent Secretary at

No 10

23245 cases (UK); 162 deaths (UK)

20602 cases (Eng); 132 deaths

(Eng)

16:54



Boris Johnson

Is that lower than last Sunday ?

17:02



Simon Case

Higher than last Sunday, just:

19790 cases (UK); 151 deaths (UK)

16487 cases (Eng); 137 deaths

17:08



Boris Johnson

Yup.

17:10

But England cases a bit lower. The
attack is going to be that we blinked
too soon

17:25

But all in all, with **R** just below 1, if we go ahead with non essential retail on 15 June, then we are sailing very close to the wind.

My view is the public are right and we need to hold our nerve.

15:45

If **R** goes above 1 - and that's what may happen if we go ahead on 15 June - then we are in all kinds of trouble

16:10



Boris Johnson

Are you saying delay retail beyond 15 ?
I think that would be a bit of a blow for us all

17:03

Matt Hancock

I agree. I think we are locked in and should just do retail, as carefully as we can

17:45



25 August, 2020



Boris Johnson | Prime Minister

Folks I am about to be asked about masks in schools

Before we perform another U-turn can I have a view on whether they are necessary

09:14

Matt Hancock | Health Secretary

Here is the medical advice:

I understand the concern for secondary schools is because teenagers are hanging around in school corridors and hallways. Therefore, the easier answer than responding with face coverings is to say our guidance references one way corridors, ventilation, etc and to note that brief encounters as children switch lessons is usually a low risk (i.e. move your kids on instead of introducing face mask requirements).

09:17



Lee Cain | The PM's director of communications

High school pupils in Scotland to wear face coverings from 31 August
www.bbc.co.uk

Considering Scotland has just confirmed it will I find it hard to believe we will hold the line. At a minimum I would give yourself flex and not commit to ruling it out.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53900825>

09:18

Also why do we want to have the fight on not having masks in certain school settings? I've been away though so **Simon** and others may have good reason I'm unaware of

09:20



Simon Case | Cabinet Secretary
I agree with Lee. **Gavin** in same place. Position today, PM, is that you have asked your scientific and education advisers to look at this, in light of the **WHO** and Scottish evidence - and then go into Matt's stuff about masks not being as critical as other measures in schools

09:21

Unless **Chris/Patrick** etc are willing to go out and say WHO and Scots are wrong, I think some nervous parents will freak out about this happening in Scotland, but not in England.

09:23

Matt Hancock

Whatever the decision we should make it, communicate in an organised way, and stick to it

09:24



Simon Case
Remember, secondary schools kids already wearing masks on buses to school, in shops etc

09:25



Chris Whitty | Chief Medical Officer
No strong reason against in corridors etc , and no very strong reasons for. The downsides are in the classroom because of the potential to interfere with teaching.

09:30

So agree not worth an argument.

09:30



Patrick Vallance | Government Chief Scientific Adviser

I think the advice is that face coverings should be worn indoors in situations where crowding cannot be avoided. I think the policy already recommends them for transport to and from school for older children. This would then make logical sense to include for corridors or communal areas if crowding cannot be avoided (if it can then that is preferred). Not in the classroom

09:39



Boris Johnson

The trouble is that the current guidance specifically excludes schools

09:49

God knows why.

09:50

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings.

09:53

In order to allow schools to require face coverings in any part of the school we will now have to do a u turn

09:55

Matt Hancock

There's a reasonable way through this. The clinical advice is clear that face coverings should not be used in classrooms as they interfere with teaching. That's the ground on which we stand.

We have not advised blanket face mask use in corridors, because the clinical advice is clear that Covid-secure measures like one-way corridors and ventilation can suffice. Schools have been working hard on this basis.



However, where schools judge that one-way corridors and ventilation will not suffice to stop crowding, it is open to schools implementing a face-coverings policy outside of classrooms.

4 July, 2020

Matt Hancock | Health Secretary



Nigel Farage appears to break coronavirus quarantine rules with pub photo after US trip

news.sky.com

We need to discuss urgently
<https://news.sky.com/story/nigel-farage-appears-to-break-quarantine-rules-with-pub-photo-after-us-trip-12020998>

16:28

Emma Dean | Department of Health
Policy Special Adviser
Does now work?

16:35

Jamie Njoku-Goodwin | Department
of Health Media Special Adviser
Does he count as a pub hooligan? Can
we lock him up?

16:54

Civil servant
Let me know if you need anything from
PO. One for Priti?

17:04

Matt Hancock

Can you ask HO PO if they are
considering it. Isn't enforcement for
PHE?

17:06

Civil servant

Ah, that's probably right. Let me
check.

17:09



Jamie Njoku-Goodwin

I've just spoken to HO spads

17:09

Sounds like we need to get PHE to do one of their "spot checks" and prove that he isn't at home

17:14



Civil servant

██████ is pretty you you signed a designation order to allow border force to bring charges.

17:17



He's also asked if you're ok with data/tweet (done via email I believe).

17:18

**██████ is pretty sure you signed a designation order to allow border force to bring charges.

17:20



Matt Hancock

Can we pls clear this up - far better if it is a HO matter. I will need an answer for tomorrow morning. This case should be treated like any other.

17:36





Civil servant

So there's two elements. Enforcement, which is if you are caught in breach a police officer can tell you to go home or take you home. Separately there is a penalty for committing an offence by being in beach, which could be a prosecution brought by the CPS or a fixed penalty notice which would be DG Border Force or the CEO of the Criminal records office

17:42



The Health Protection Regulations 2020
legislation.gov.uk

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/568/pdfs/uksi_20200568_en.pdf

17:43

Part 3 is on enforcement.

17:43

just chasing up a cleared line for tomorrow.

17:44



This is the designation order that went with the regs.

17:48

Matt Hancock

Ok. That's v clear - thank you!

17:48





Civil servant

Image omitted

17:48

██████ sending through lines cleared with
HO.

19:58



11 October, 2020



Helen Whately | Social Care Minister
Wish we could loosen on children under 12 on rule of 6 for tier 1.

15:46

It would make such a difference for families and there isn't a robust rationale for it. Now is a really good chance to show we have listened. (Lots of MPs were pushing on this during last weeks' debates)

16:54

Matt Hancock | Health Secretary
They don't want to go there on this

17:40



Helen Whately
Are we they?!

17:40

Matt Hancock
As in No10. Also on curfew - they don't want to shift an inch

17:54



4 June, 2020



Helen Whately | Social Care Minister
Care Homes testing update; on track for 6 June deadline to make tests available to all older-age care homes. Tests delivered to over 8000 care homes. The challenge is 642 who have yet to register. Outbound calling has identified 178 not in operation, 346 saying 'already tested via pillar 1' and 98 do not want a test. Team is working on getting the latter 2 categories signed up, enlisting **DpHs**, **DASSs** and then **CQC**.

13:46

Matt Hancock | Health Secretary
Well done. What happened to the 178 not in operation?!



13:53



Helen Whately
The info I have is 'CQC registered but not in operation'. Will find out. (The call focus was on how to get the recalcitrant ones that are in operation tested!)

13:59

Matt Hancock
yes aboslutely - esp the 98

14:01





Helen Whately

✓ (esp the 10 in [REDACTED] where the dph is worried testing will reveal too many asymptomatic staff 😡 - [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are very much on the case there)

14:02

Matt Hancock

take a good look as Ashford and East Kent too

14:03



Helen Whately

My patch...will do

14:04



28 April, 2020

Matt Hancock | Health Secretary
I need to call in a favour tmrw

23:17



I currently have 22,000 spare slots tomorrow at my drive thrus. Hence I've extended eligibility today. Demand just isnt there. This is obvs good news about spread of virus. But hard for my target

23:18

So I really could do with a testing splash

23:18

Can we make this happen?

23:18

George Osborne | Editor of the Evening Standard

Yes - of course - all you need to do tomorrow is give some exclusive words to the Standard and I'll tell the team to splash it

23:30

You're almost there

23:31

Send the words to me by 8am tomorrow

23:31

Message to London?

23:32

Get someone to brief **Joe Murphy** too

23:33



29 April, 2020

Matt Hancock

We've expanded our coronavirus testing capacity, so more people can now get a test. Right across London, if you need to leave home to work, or are over 65, or anyone in your household, if you've got symptoms you can now apply for a test. Anyone in those groups can apply online now. I want to thank Londoners for what they've done to slow the spread and protect the NHS. This expanded testing will help people stay safe and will help London get back on its feet.

07:05

Thank you! Quote 👉

07:07

I've also sent to Joe

07:07

George Osborne
Great

08:00

Matt Hancock

Now I'll find out how strong the bonds of loyalty are!

10:02

George Osborne

You'll make the front but not as big as 10 mins ago!

10:05

Matt Hancock
Fair enough!

10:05



George Osborne

And you'll like the editorial

10:06

Well done

10:06

Matt Hancock

I WANT TO HIT MY TARGET!

10:06



George Osborne

I gathered

10:14

