

Forty-fourth SAGE meeting on Covid-19, 25th June 2020
Held via Zoom

R and growth rates

1. Short term forecasts continue to project a downward trend in all indicators modelled, including ICU bed occupancy and number of deaths.
2. SAGE approved the latest estimates of R and growth rate. For the UK, R remains between 0.7 and 0.9, and the growth rate is estimated as being between -2% and -4% per day.
3. It was noted that some of the Devolved Administrations will soon reach a level of incidence for which R cannot be reliably estimated. SAGE agreed to expand on this point in next week's meeting.
4. The terms 'cluster', 'outbreak' and 'epidemic' are currently used to describe different sizes of outbreak, but the differences between these terms have not been properly defined. Clearer definitions would improve communications and public understanding.

List of actions

ACTION: SPI-M to investigate the point at which R can no longer be reliably estimated for the next SAGE meeting

ACTION: CMO to define the terms 'cluster', 'outbreak' and 'epidemic' for use in describing different sizes of outbreak

Attendees

Scientific Experts (7): Patrick Vallance (GCSA), Chris Whitty (CMO), Angela McLean (CSA MoD), Graham Medley (LSHTM), Iain Bell (ONS), Rob Orford (Health CSA Wales), Roger Halliday (Chief Statistician Scotland),

Observer (1): [REDACTED]

Secretariat (all GO-Science) (5): [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Total: 13