

# Meeting details

The meeting was held on 22 August 2022 from 2pm to 3.30pm on Microsoft Teams.

The co-chairs were Graham Medley (academic chair) and Thomas Waite (government chair).

## Attendees

From Scientific Pandemic Infections group on Modelling (SPI-M):

- Paul Birrell
- Declan Bradley
- Andre Charlett
- Louise Dyson
- John Edmunds
- Thomas Finnie
- Christopher Fraser
- Julia Gog
- Ian Hall
- Thomas House
- Matt Keeling
- Adam Kucharski
- Edwin Van Leeuwen
- Chris Robertson
- Anna Seale
- Nick Watkins
- Christopher Williams

Observers:

- Hayley Butcher (Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC))
- Sarah Deeny (UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA))
- Nick Taylor (Office of National Statistics (ONS))
- Participant apologies:
- Daniela De Angelis
- Ellen Brooks-Pollock
- Jessica Enright
- Marc Baguelin
- Michael Gravenor
- Neil Ferguson
- Rowland Kao
- Steven Riley

## Introduction

The committee was given a general overview of the secretariat and future changes after the departure of multiple members. The committee thanked those who had moved on from the secretariat for all their hard work.

The outstanding actions from the previous meeting were noted.

Action:

Committee members who have looked at changes in mortality over the pandemic and how it related to hospital pressure to share this work with the secretariat.

# **UKHSA pandemic influenza modelling – final review**

UKHSA presented an updated version of their epidemiological modelling paper and outlined the changes made since the last meeting based on the feedback received from the committee.

UKHSA noted the suggestions on areas to include more detail were outside of the scope of this paper and could be addressed in future work.

Outstanding questions from the committee were addressed. The committee noted the work doesn't consider the possibilities of viral evolution and multiple waves over subsequent seasons. This would impact scenarios with late introduction of a vaccine or if a vaccine resistant variant emerged. The committee agreed that the modelling was appropriate and should be used with the caveats agreed.

## **UKHSA update**

UKHSA thanked those participants who have been helping with the response to the ongoing monkeypox outbreak.

UKHSA noted that COVID-19 data products continue to be shared with participants and the Epidemiology Modelling Review Group (EMRG) continue to produce consensus statements on a fortnightly basis.

UKHSA provided an update on the current monkeypox outbreak. They noted that the trend of monkeypox cases is possibly decreasing, although this is difficult to interpret because of the way cases are reported. The number of female cases is being closely monitored to assess the risk of spread to other at-risk groups.

The committee discussed the importance of data quality and access for modelling. Multiple data sharing methods were mentioned, and the committee expressed a preference for receiving direct access to data, rather than data sets being circulated through the committee.

The committee agreed that data access and surveillance, in the context of a future pandemic or emerging infectious disease outbreak, should be discussed at a later meeting.

## Overview of upcoming projects

The secretariat explained that the committee's upcoming work will focus on capturing the lessons learned for pandemic preparedness during the COVID-19 pandemic and its modelling.

This will fall into 2 categories, in particular: producing evidence notes summarising insights for future policy-making and capturing the data lessons learnt during the pandemic.

The first note will focus on border measures and how the evidence around these has changed since 2018. The aim of the document is for it to be applicable to a wide range of possible future outbreaks.

The committee agreed that the evidence notes should consider the role of international measures and how this might influence the epidemic in the UK.

It was noted that the data lessons learnt exercise will cover the data which will be useful for modelling, as well as data access and how this could be improved ahead of next pandemic.

The committee noted that, to benefit future modelling, improvements could be made in data quality and case reporting as well as more detailed hospital data.

Action:

Volunteers to put together a draft of notes on border measures to be discussed in future SPI-M meetings.

Action:

SPI-M secretariat to draft an initial note on data issues to be discussed at a future meeting.

## Any other business (AOB)

The date of the next SPI-M meeting will be announced in the next few weeks.