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**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Thur 6/17/2021 8:23:53 PM

**Subject:** RE: European Science Advisers Call 8 June Readout

**Received:** Thur 6/17/2021 8:24:57 PM

In Belgium incidence also decreasing at -40% per week  
Delta proportion increased to 6% and rising. Most cases in Antwerp and Brussels  
Alpha (80%), beta (1.4%) and gamma (9.9%) stable

[redacted]  
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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

**From:** [redacted]@chu-lyon.fr <[redacted]@chu-lyon.fr>

**Sent:** Thursday, 17 June 2021 18:25

**To:** [redacted]@go-science.gov.uk; [redacted]@go-science.gov.uk; [redacted]@comite-ethique.fr; [redacted]@rivm.nl; [redacted]@ethz.ch; [redacted]@mscbs.es; [redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk; [redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk; [redacted]@sciensano.be; [redacted]@rki.de; [redacted]@iss.it; [redacted]@sfi.ie; [redacted]@pasteur.fr; [redacted]@sciencespo.fr; [redacted]@lshmt.ac.uk

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**Subject:** RE: European Science Advisers Call 8 June Readout

Dear All,

Just an update on variant sequencing in France, and the increasing proportion of B.1.617.2 (Delta) detected. This virus is clearly circulating in France, representing now about 3 to 4% of the positive cases, based on a 452R screening PCR performed on all positive PCR detection

1 – in the last screening of the Landes department (south of Bordeaux), there was a very limited number of cases (incidence rate 47/100 000 per week, decreasing), a low positivity rate (<2%), but a switch from B.1.1.7 to B.1.617.2, the latter representing about 50% of the cases in this department

2 – clusters have been documented in the Alps, close to Geneva, and in the suburbs of Lyon (Nursing home, High school), in Strasbourg (High school), in the northern part of France and around Paris. Clusters of B.1.617.1 (kappa) have been reported in the

region of Marseille (Nursing homes). In all areas, there is a community circulation also observed.

Meanwhile, the incidence is still decreasing at a very high speed (-40% as compared to last week).

Best wishes

5.1.2e

De : 5.1.2e (GO-Science) [ 5.1.2e @go-science.gov.uk ]

Envoyé : mercredi 9 juin 2021 15:08

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Objet : RE: European Science Advisers Call 8 June Readout

Dear all,

Thank you for attending the call yesterday, please below a readout. Also attached is:

1. E-mail from 5.1.2e 5.1.2e 5.1.2e on protocols for carbon dioxide meters and ventilation.
2. UK paper prepared by the Environmental Modelling Group (EMG) and the Scientific Pandemic Insights Group on Behaviours (SPI-B) on the application of CO2 monitoring as an approach to managing ventilation.
3. The latest Variants of Concern technical briefing from Public Health England.
4. Report from the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology in India on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant.

If you have suggestions for topics to be discussed during the next call, please do let us know.

Kind regards,

5.1.2e

#### European Science Advisers Call, 8 June 0800 – 0900 BST

Represented country	Attendee	Job title
UK		
France	5.1.2e 5.1.2e	
Switzerland		5.1.2e
Belgium	5.1.2e 5.1.2e 5.1.2e	

Ireland	
Netherlands	5.1.2e 5.1.2e 5.1.2e 5.1.2e 5.1.2e
Spain	5.1.2e
Italy	5.1.2e 5.1.2e
EU	
Apologies:	5.1.2e – Sutter [Switzerland]

Observers: 5.1.2e 5.1.2e 5.1.2e

### Actions

- 5.1.2e 5.1.2e 5.1.2e to share proposals for carbon dioxide meters and air purification guidelines in facilities with the group (attached).
- UK to circulate scientific paper on carbon dioxide monitoring (attached).
- All to share any evidence on the impacts of seasonality on case numbers with the group.
- France to share information on variant sequencing when data is available.
- All to sign up to letter of support for 5.1.2e 5.1.2e 5.1.2e, if decided to be appropriate by 5.1.2e 5.1.2e 5.1.2e.

### An update from each country, including Variants of Concern and plans for re-opening

**UK:** The B.1.617.2 variant has become the dominant variant in the UK. It probably has a 40 – 60% growth advantage, with a mix of transmissibility and immune escape. A pre-print paper from the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology in India concluded that it was up to 50% more transmissible (attached). There are some areas where it has grown quite rapidly and then levelled off e.g. in Bolton. Surge testing and increased vaccinations were implemented in that area, cases have now levelled off, but elsewhere in the UK case numbers continue to grow. We are seeing a much lower hospitalisation and death rate than in previous outbreaks, probably because the percentage of people who are vaccinated is higher but we do expect both of those to increase as the number of cases increases. There is some possible indication of a slight increase in hospitalisation of unvaccinated people with the Delta variant than with Alpha, but there are very wide confidence intervals on this. Many measures have been lifted in the UK, including indoor dining. There is one further step due to take place on 21 June, but this may be delayed in order to get higher vaccine coverage before further restrictions are released.

Vaccine distribution is age dependent in the UK due to timings of rollout of the different vaccines. Pfizer was introduced first and so the eldest and most medically vulnerable received Pfizer, the vast majority from 40 – 70 years of age have had AZ. Below 40 years of age, mostly all have had Pfizer. AZ immune response takes a bit

longer to accrue compared to Pfizer. All these factors make comparisons between different vaccine effectiveness complicated. The UK does anticipate having to give a booster in the autumn for some age groups, particularly older groups, this may be a different vaccine to that given for first and second doses as there might be some advantage to having different vaccines. 5.1.2e 5.1.2e, University of Cambridge has conducted antigenic mapping. In terms of antigenic coverage, B.117 sits in the centre compared to others. B.1.617.2 is a bit more distant and B.1.351 and P.1 sit in a different place. Also appears that there is little cross protection from B.1.351 to B.1.617.2.

**Spain:** Transmission is mainly among younger age groups, while decreasing rates are seen among the older groups who have been vaccinated. In general, the trend is very slowly decreasing. More outbreaks of different variants; among them is B.1.617.2. There have been 4 or 5 outbreaks of the Delta variant, which so far is not spreading very fast. Most outbreaks have been in the Santander region (port for ferries from UK). Variant from Colombia has produced some outbreaks in specific areas of Spain where there are community links with Colombia. So far around 25 small outbreaks have been detected. This variant seems to have some small immune escape but this still needs to be confirmed. People are feeling more free and closer to 'normal life'. For over 60 year olds vaccine coverage is around 95%, over 70 year olds coverage is at 99% and for over 80 year olds coverage is at 100%. The slow decreasing trend of cases should continue.

**Belgium:** From 9 June, there will be more relaxation of measures and people are already changing their behaviour. Mobility trends are almost back to normal levels. Around half of adults have had their first vaccine dose, and a quarter of adults have had their second dose. Alpha variant is still dominant (more than 80% of infections), Brazilian variant is at 10% and Delta was at 1.3% of infections last week. Numbers are still going down and there is planning for events to open from 13 August, of up to 75,000 people with requirements for entry being fully vaccinated or a negative test. One death of a relatively young woman 1 or 2 weeks after the Johnson & Johnson jab and two deaths from the AZ vaccine.

On the relaxation plan, we have emphasised the importance of ventilation and air quality. Restaurants, bars, fitness centres and party halls can open on the condition that they can guarantee sufficient ventilation. They will be legally obliged to install carbon dioxide meters, and have to close if they go above a certain threshold (1200ppm CO<sub>2</sub>).

**The Netherlands:** Stable situation with the Delta variant, about 0.1 – 0.3% of random selection that was sequenced, and has not been increasing. The Gamma variant is steadily increasing and now at 3% of cases. Alpha variant is decreasing, approaching 95% of the random selection of cases sequenced.

**Ireland:** Delta variant is increasing but not significantly. Have good vaccination coverage, 80% of adult population have had their first dose. The AZ dosing was an interval of 16 weeks, then 12, and now aim is for 8 weeks between first and second dose. A slower and more measured opening of larger indoor events is planned. Figures are not as accurate as before due to the cyber-attack which disabled everything but vaccination data in public health.

**Switzerland:** Around 20 – 25% of the population have had their second dose of the vaccine. Has been a decrease in cases, unclear if this is due to compliance by population with the measures, and suspect it might be due to seasonality. Delta variant still very low, less than 1% of cases. Measures have been relaxed substantially but large events not yet open. Have been threats to some members of the taskforce.

**France:** Situation is getting better. Incidence has decreased by 20% since last week and back to the levels of last August. 42% of total population have had first vaccine dose and 18% of total population have had their second vaccine dose (80% of over 65 year olds have had their second dose). Outdoor measures have been relaxed and indoors will be re-opening tomorrow. The testing rate remains very high (2 – 2.5million tests per week), and positivity rate is very low (below 3%). Decrease in the Alpha variant and increase of South African variant. In Paris, around 16% of cases are from the South African variant. We are seeing some different variants circulating – Nigerian, Belgian, and limited number for Colombia. Some introduction of the Delta variant and some circulation in southwest France (les Landes département) and we are undertaking surge testing there. All positive results will be sequenced to see how far the variant is circulating in this area. Should be able to share information on this next week.

