

CPG Minutes

Feb 16/21 6pm

MSP's Present

Jackson Carlaw MSP

Bill Bowman MSP

Maurice Corry MSP

Richard Lyle MSP

John Mason MSP.

Opening by Jackson Carlaw

Jackson asks Bill Bowman MSP and Richard Lyle MSP to second the last CPG minutes.

Jackson notes that this is the last CPG for this session but the first CPG of its kind in Scottish Parliament, that there were more motions on Israel during this Parliamentary session and that he hopes the CPG will re-convene in the next Parliamentary session.

Special thanks to Bill Bowman MSP for his help with the CPG, to Richard Lyle MSP, who will be retiring and for his role as Deputy Convenor of the CPG, and Mary Fee MSP who will be retiring as well.

Jackson continued that we've been successful in UK with the vaccination rollout but there are two more countries that are at the forefront, and Israel is one of them.

Prof Eyal Leshem: Real World Impact of Covid-19 Vaccine Roll Out-Prof Eyal Leshem. Institute for Travel Medicine and Tropical Diseases, Sheba Medical Centre, Israel Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Israel's health demographics

- Population 9,291,000
 - 6.8m Jews
 - 1.9m Arabs
- Life expectancy 83 years
 - #7 OECD

Israel's Healthcare System

- National Health Insurance Law
 - Every legal resident receives all medical care with very low copayment
- Medical coverage is universal
- Four public sector healthcare funds
 - Based on German model

Israel's Immunization Program

- Established 1921
- Universal, free

Israel's Covid status

- 720,393 cases
- 5,335 deaths

- 3rd wave coming to a decline

Roll out

- Sheva Medical Centre has 2000 beds, largest hospital in the Middle East
- The Prime Minister was the first to be vaccinated, this shows that it is safe to take which creates a confidence in the vaccine

Eyal then showed us an image of Israeli's Prioritization list and expected dates for each group to be vaccinated.

Israel supply chain and distribution channels

- Israel is using the Pfizer vaccine
- Teva Pharmaceutical have supplied freezers and logistic facilities to keep the vaccine at -70
- Then sent to hospital to distribute to:
 1. Community based HMO's (health funds, clalit etc)
 2. Mental-very used to responding to emergency, easy to move from routine to emergency-easy to get logistics done

Eyal then shared a figure of doses per 100 citizens.

There is now a challenge to convince the young to come and get vaccinated, as they are mainly a healthy group.

Current status

- By February 16, 2021 nearly 4m (3.8m) out of 9m have received the first dose
- 2.3M fully vaccinated-1 week past 2nd dose
- Persons >60% 87%
- Persons >50y 83%

Effectiveness Data

Maccabi health services number infected (Feb 4, 2021)

- 254/416,000 (0.06%) fully vaccinated
- 12,944/778,000 (1.7%) unvaccinated
- 96% reduction (most aged >60y; UK strain)

Clalit health services (Feb 13, 2021)

- 1.2M insured; 600K vaccinated; 170K >60Y; 430K 16-59
- 94% decline in symptomatic infections
- 92% decline in severe disease
- Across age group – benefits kept at age>70Y

Conclusions

- Challenges with the Arab and Ultra-Orthodox communities
- UK variant predominant in 2021, seeing South Africa variant increase
- Declines in severe disease in persons seven days after second dose
- Effectiveness analyses underway
 - Preliminary evidence of effectiveness after 15 days after first dose

Richard Lyle

Said his thanks.

Jackson

- Fahed Hakim-Nazareth Trust-Medical Trust & will be speaking at future CPG
- Wish to celebrate 160 anniversary

Dr Fahed Hakim

- 160 Scottish establishment & medical history
- To serve all citizens
- He is a paediatrician
- Covid came and taught us a lot about community and all citizens that all healthcare providers are a soldier and that Jews and Arabs are working next to each other.
- They are the largest Arab facility in Israel
- Serves 350,000 people
- Dealing with fake news and trying to tackle this-IDF and Home Command and going to the area and asking people to be vaccinated

Jackson

Sharon Bar-Li will be leaving and this is her last CPG. He says his thanks.

Sharon

Says her thanks and that Scotland is a great relation in all spheres in life and that is good to be in contact. That it is better to have dialogue, as it has an advantage to all to be talking one to another.

Maurice Corry

Thanked Sharon for her work and for her work with the Veterans and that he hopes she will speak to the Veteran CPG before returning to Israel.

Attendees

Alan Kay
Andrew Jones
Anthea Berg
Bill Bowman MSP
Corrine Grant
Christina Jones
Colin Wilson
Donald Martin
Dorothe Kaufmann
Dorothy Yost
Doug Flett
Edward Green
Elizabeth Buchanan
Elkie Clark
Elspeth Masson
Euan Waddell
Evelyn Liston
Evy Yedd
Eyal Leshem
Fahed Hakim
Gina Brown
Jackson Carlaw MSP
Jean Brannigan
Jessie Macclennan
John Mason MSP
Jonny Connelly
Julia Pohlmann
Kenny Roger
Liz Gibb
Lynda Sims
Maggie and Morris Dutch
Edwin Mandel
Marion Stone
Mark Cooney
Martin Beck
Maurice Corry
Micheline Brannan
Morgan Jamieson
Myer Green
Neil Lal
Paul Edlin

Richard Lyle Msp
Sammy Stein
Sandra Silverdale
Sharon Arthuson
Sharon Bar-Li
Ephraim Borowski

Stanley Lovatt
Steve Saunders
Stuart Mcivor
Toby David
Trevor And Maggie Stewart-Sweet
Vicci Stein
Vivian Aisan
Walter Hecht