
Task Force briefing



This resource is based on a fictional illness called ‘Exan’. All information, data, organisations and people referred to in this booklet are fictitious.



OFFICE OF THE
PRIME MINISTER

Task Force Briefing

Over the past year, a new illness has been spreading around the world at an alarming rate and it is now fully established in the United Kingdom. This illness is caused by a novel Enterovirus which has been called ‘Exan-21-A’, many people simply call the virus and the illness ‘Exan’.

During this health emergency, my job and the job of this government is to make decisions on how best to prevent the spread of Exan and protect lives. Although I will ultimately need to make the decisions on how to move forward, I will always be guided by science, research and data. This is where I need you.

In order to help me, the government and the people of the UK to fight this illness I am creating a new group called the ‘Exan-21-A Task Force’.

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The purposes of this task force will be to collaborate across disciplines and sectors in order to use data and research to recommend how we fight Exan.

The first task for the Exan-21-A task force will be to answer the following questions from my cabinet:

1. What factors appear to increase the likely hood of becoming infected with Exan-21-A? Can you explain why these factors increase the likely hood of catching Exan-21-A?
2. What control measures should be put in place to prevent the spread of Exan-21-A, based on the transmission factors you previously identified?
3. How can we prevent the spread of Exan-21-A in a clinical setting?
4. The government is under a large amount of pressure to close the education sector but we are extremely keen to keep it open. What do you recommend?
5. Who is at most risk from Exan-21-A?
6. There appears to be conflicting information about the relationship between obesity and Exan- 21-A. Are there any trends or clear relationships that you can identify between obesity and Exan-21-A? Are there any unusual or unexpected trends?
7. We have excess deaths (excess mortality) caused by Exan-21-A. These are deaths in addition to the number of deaths we would normally expect to see. It appears as though there is a relationship between excess mortality and the level of education someone has, can you explain this?

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This task force will be made up of smaller sub-groups who will attempt to answer each question independently. All the sub-groups will then come together, listen to each other's answers and findings and agree upon one final answer that will be submitted to my office.

At the end of this briefing you will be split into those sub-groups. Each group must then select a group leader who take overall responsibility for the groups work and act as spokesperson for the group once the overall task force comes back together.

You will shortly be given an information pack which contains a wide range of information and data about Exan-21-A.

At the end of this briefing, you may open your information pack and spend around 10 minutes looking through and interpreting the contents. What does each piece of information tell you and how might it be important in combating Exan? I would also recommend that you use the information in this briefing to ensure you fully understand what Exan is, how it makes us sick and how it spreads.

Once you've had a chance to look through the information pack, you will be given a blank version of the taskforce report that you will need to complete in your groups. Once all groups are ready, you will need to come back together as one task force to discuss and finalise your combined report.

Good luck!



Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
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