

COVID 19 Advisory 3

When I asked Dr. Mike Davies to stand down temporarily, I enquired how he read the COVID 19 situation. He spoke of some vulnerable adults experiencing an exaggerated immune response to the Virus. A good thing – Yes?... Not so, he replied. Such a response could become Autoimmune - self attacking. That way lies the path to multi organ failure, intensive care and a less certain outcome.

Yesterday I heard a specialist explain that this virus could go one of two ways, according to conditions. **Path A** is mutation to a more aggressive form and **Path B** would be attenuation of its strength- ie becoming weaker. By battenning down the hatches, such as football crowds closely confined indoors, Path A is favoured. The “light touch management”, allowing open air crowding in sports arenas for example, assists the slower Path B.

Our Public Health Major Threat Command & Control Structure decides how the NHS can serve our population, yet not be overwhelmed by it. The main trick is to alter the shape of the graph of new infections. The initial, steep rise is now expected to start in 4 weeks time. (Easter). Every effort will then be directed to flattening the peak and extending the base, which will then stretch over 10 – 14 weeks (into July).

It is possible that those countries which have so successfully overcome COVID 19 are more likely to face a recurrent wave of Virus. I have heard that China believes that this will happen and is planning accordingly. I wonder if they will report a higher percentage of mutations (Path A)?

Perhaps our strategy seeks to preserve our Health Service even while it tames COVID 19. We have now been warned about the possible human cost. The new instruction to self isolate for 7 days(if symptomatic) may reflect our now being in the delay phase. If my reading is correct it may help us interpret the different responses of other nations.

Our man in Paris (William Powles) has reported on President Macron’s address to the Nation (12th March) Macron declared that the situation was deteriorating rapidly, France being some 10 days behind Italy (and the UK 2-3 weeks behind France, says William). EU Borders are closing and travellers are having their temperatures taken.

All education establishments in France, from Crèche to University, will close on Monday. According to Radio 4 , Belgium has already closed all education facilities, in addition to banning all social, business, sports and public gatherings AND closing all bars and restaurants.

Our Spring Voyage to Bergues **in France** was built on a Technical visit plus half our Restaurant dining ... **in Belgium**.