

One of Britain's most eminent scientists says the coronavirus crisis has "exposed that the country wasn't as well-prepared as it should have been". Sir Paul Nurse was speaking as his leading research center began helping to carry out coronavirus tests. In an interview with the BBC, Sir Paul added that it wasn't the time to go into detail and it was important right now to work together to get through it. Here's our health editor Hugh Pym.

The first day of coronavirus testing at one of Britain's leading science research centers, the Francis Crick Institute. Labs here used for work in other areas, including cancer, have been switched to analyzing swab samples. Today, the government called on academic and industry teams to help in a new national drive to boost virus testing. Had this come a little late in the day, I asked the director, Sir Paul Nurse.

Well, I think that this whole Covid-19 has exposed that the country wasn't as well-prepared as it should have been, and we see that in a number of areas. I don't think now is the time to go into that in great detail because we all have to work together, all put our shoulders to the wheel and get through it.