

# Considerations for Local Enhanced Covid19 Measures

In May 2020, The Welsh Government published its approach to moving out of the current COVID-19 lockdown, “*Unlocking our society and economy: continuing the conversation*”. This outlines a “traffic light” approach to easing restrictions in a number of key domains (see **Annex 1**). This document explicitly references that, where local increases in incidence cannot be controlled through ‘Test Trace and Protect’, it may be necessary to re-impose measures. Progression from lockdown, through red and amber to green may not proceed at the same rate for all areas and it may be necessary to reverse course in some areas should conditions worsen.

**Figure 1** outlines a phased approach to identifying and responding to local increases in incidence. The objectives and actions at each phase build stepwise towards implementation of local lockdown.

Where deemed necessary to (re)introduce locally enhanced measures, consideration should be informed by available evidence, to limit ongoing transmission whilst minimising the impact on the local population and economy.

Where local “hotspots” are identified/suspected, it will be necessary to increase testing and surveillance to generate evidence of increased incidence.

## **Consider:**

- Enhanced/ proactive testing, particularly of large workplaces and other enclosed settings.
- Enhanced surveillance to identify “hotspots” and areas of concern
- Drawing on surge capacity to bolster local ‘Test, Trace and Protect’ provision

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Stable</b>	<b>Re-emergence</b>	<b>Community</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise spread of infection</li> <li><b>Plan</b> to ensure readiness to respond to re-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intervene early to prevent further spread of infection</li> <li><b>Prepare</b> response for community outbreaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Act</b> to contain community outbreak</li> </ul>
<b>Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveillance</li> <li>Communications</li> <li>Management of clusters/outbreaks in discreet settings</li> <li>Define thresholds for Re-emergence and Community Outbreak</li> <li><b>Plan</b> to ensure readiness to response to Re-emergence and Community Outbreak</li> </ul>	<p>As Plan plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensive surveillance</li> <li>Enhanced communications to warn public of heightened risk and encourage greater social distancing</li> <li>Liaise with WG and consider terms of potential 'local lockdown' – the measures to be used and their geographical extent – and <b>prepare</b> to implement</li> </ul>	<p>As Prepare plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm terms and <b>implement</b> 'local lockdown'</li> </ul>
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>(1) Daily COVID-19 test positivity rates, (2) Weekly total of new cases, and (3) 7-day rolling cumulative positive cases</b>		
<b>Triggers</b>			
<b>Threshold</b>	<p>All indicators within 3 standard deviations of baseline (15<sup>th</sup> June 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall HB; and</li> <li><b>All</b> local authority areas; and</li> <li><b>All</b> built up areas</li> </ul>	<p>All Indicators &gt;3 standard deviations above baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>One or more</b> local authority areas; or</li> <li><b>One or more</b> built up areas</li> </ul>	<p>All Indicators &gt;5 standard deviations above baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall HB; or</li> <li><b>One or more</b> built up areas</li> </ul>
<b>AND</b>			
<b>Other situational awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher case rate or increase in case rate cannot be explained by higher rates of testing - i.e. positivity rate is not artificially low compared to previous periods or other areas.</li> <li>Higher case rate or increase in case rate cannot be explained by cases related to one or more outbreaks in discreet settings that could be managed through a response targeted at these settings</li> </ul>		

**Figure 1: Phased Approach for (re)escalation for locally enhanced measures**

NB: Baseline= Rate as of 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2020

## **Enforcement of enhanced measures**

Where possible, measures should be enforced by communities and individuals themselves. Where necessary, measures may be enforced through a combination of statutory powers drafted by the Government and existing local enforcement powers, which can be triggered to protect the public. The Government powers will reverse some easements, which have already happened, and defer others which were due to take place.

Specific enforcement powers such as those under the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 or the Part 2A Order under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 are delegated to authorised officers to use in accordance with the Council's corporate enforcement policies. More strategic decisions concerning for example the closure of public services or imposition of local restrictions will need to be made by the Leader of each Council with their Cabinet. If the decision is urgent, each Council will have arrangements to make an urgent decision for example by way of an Executive Decision.

### **Consider:**

- Arrangements and responsibilities for declaring and enforcing enhanced measures, including relevant authorities (Las, LRF, etc.) and expertise.
- Developing clear, targeted, public engagement to develop public understanding and support for enhanced measures.
- Working with national (UK/ WALES) government to develop/ adopt tailored legal powers.
- Publishing details of relevant legal powers on website(s) (Local Authority, Public Health Wales, Health Board(s)).
- Proactive enforcement of social distancing in public areas (police/ community wardens/ Social distancing "champions") and workplaces (EHOs).
- Establishing/ publicising contact routes for reporting non compliance

### **Communication**

In the event of localised increases in rates of COVID-19 infection, the public and relevant stakeholders should be kept informed, to increase awareness of risks, ensure local support and reduce potential of onward transmission.

### **Consider**

- Provision of public information on
  - Geographical scale of the affected area, based on enhanced surveillance
  - likely length of time for enhanced restrictions (subject to review based on local incidence)
  - Nature of local restrictions, including closure of businesses/ facilities
  - Sources of information/ support

- Provision of information in a range of media (social media platforms, press releases, posters, mail shots etc,)
- Provision of information in a range of community languages, as appropriate (including British Sign Language)
- “Segmentation”/ tailoring messages for specific groups (using behavioural science informed approaches), with appropriate “routes in”/ two way communication.
- Reinforcement of key messages related to:
  - Signs and symptoms
  - Access to testing
  - Hand hygiene- with enhanced public provision of hand hygiene stations, etc.
  - Social distancing

### Travel

It may be necessary to restrict travel in order to reduce likelihood of transmission.

#### Consider:

- Recommending travel within, into and outside of the affected area, ONLY if such travel is essential, e.g.:
  - work (if you cannot work from home),
  - to obtain essential food or medical supplies, or
  - to take exercise (restricted to once a day, in the local area, observing social distancing).

### Schools/ Colleges/ universities

Schools in Wales began phased opening on 29 June. Depending on the time of year, it may be necessary to close/ restrict opening of schools, colleges and universities.

#### Consider:

- Schools remaining open for children of key workers and vulnerable children
- Closing of schools to all other pupils, as per prior to lifting of restrictions
- Schools remaining closed until a given date (e.g. following school holidays)
- Supporting provision of enhanced teaching (web based, workbooks, etc), to enable learning from home.
- Working with universities and to ensure infection prevention and control in shared housing.
- Encouraging online/ staggered tutorials and lectures

### Businesses/ shops

Reopening of non-essential shops/ businesses in Wales has proceeded in a phased manner. In the event of increased local transmission, this may need review at the local level.

#### Consider:

- Restricting the (re)opening of non-essential businesses. This would include:
  - Pubs/ Restaurants/ social clubs

- Hairdressers;
- leisure facilities/ gyms;
- cinemas;
- museums / galleries;
- theme parks/ arcades;
- Financial support for businesses required to close (will require national agreements)

### Community facilities

Access to / use of community facilities may need to be limited

Consider:

- closure of community facilities:
  - libraries;
  - places of worship;
  - community centres;
  - playgrounds;

### Extended Households/ Support Bubbles

Two households have been able to join together in one "bubble" household in Wales from July 6<sup>th</sup>, to meet in each other's houses or outside, while observing social distancing.

**Consider:**

- Limiting the formation of support bubbles, to reduce risk of transmission

### Individuals who are shielding

The Chief Medical Officer for Wales has advised that shielding should continue until the 16 August 2020. A letter has been sent to everyone in Wales who is shielding to tell them this and what to do next.

Individuals who are shielding can now form an **extended household with another household**. However, physical distancing within an extended household should continue where possible.

Those who are shielding can continue to leave home to exercise or meet outside with people from another household. They should strictly follow physical distancing (2 metres or 3 steps away from another person) and you should practice good hygiene using a hand sanitiser and avoiding touching things touched by others.

**Consider:**

*Pre 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020:*

- Advise against forming an extended household
- Advise against non-essential trips out of the house.

*Post 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (in addition to above):*

- Local extension of shielding provision (including letters to enable exclusion from work)
- Explore provision of food/ medicine delivery

Support for vulnerable People

Consider:

- Providing a contact email/ telephone number for individuals requiring support/ information
- Local arrangements for support with food/ medicine delivery

## Appendix 1: Restriction Domains ([LINK](#))

<b>Education and Care for Children (Includes HE and FE)</b>	
<b>LOCKDOWN</b>	Closed except to key workers and vulnerable children. Outreach services in place.
<b>RED</b>	No change, but able to manage increase in demand from children already eligible to attend schools and childcare.
<b>AMBER</b>	Priority groups of pupils to return to school in a phased approach.
<b>GREEN</b>	All children and students able to access education. All children able to access childcare.

<b>Seeing family and friends</b>	
<b>LOCKDOWN</b>	Stay at home and contact only within households (limited exceptions).
<b>RED</b>	Seeing one person from outside your household to provide or receive care or support whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing.
<b>AMBER</b>	Taking exercise with one other person or small group whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing.
<b>GREEN</b>	Meeting one other person or small group to socialise whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing.

<b>Getting around</b>	
<b>LOCKDOWN</b>	Leave the house for essential travel only.
<b>RED</b>	Local travel, including for click-and-collect retail. Promote active travel and adapt public transport for physical distancing.
<b>AMBER</b>	Allow outdoor leisure and recreation. Travel for leisure, access non-essential retail and services, and more people travelling to work.
<b>GREEN</b>	Unrestricted travel subject to ongoing precautions.

<b>Exercise, playing sport and games</b>	
<b>LOCKDOWN</b>	Exercise once a day outside of house on own or with household.
<b>RED</b>	Exercise more than once a day and incidental activity locally. Outdoor sports courts to open. Elite athletes resume some activity.
<b>AMBER</b>	Team and individual sports, non-contact sport and games in small groups indoors and outdoors. Some outdoor events with limited capacity and events behind closed doors for broadcast.
<b>GREEN</b>	All sports, leisure and cultural activities open, with physical distancing. All events resume with limited capacity.

Practicing faith	
<b>LOCKDOWN</b>	Closure of places of worship, with exceptions for funerals and cremations.
<b>RED</b>	Opening of places of worship for private prayer under physical distancing.
<b>AMBER</b>	Limit services and size of congregations linked to ability to ensure physical distancing.
<b>GREEN</b>	All places open with full range of services, alongside physical distancing.

Relaxing and special occasions	
<b>LOCKDOWN</b>	Stay at home and only leave the house for essential purposes.
<b>RED</b>	Some opening of outdoor cultural and other sites. Relaxation and leisure outdoors where local.
<b>AMBER</b>	More cultural and leisure sites to reopen (e.g. museums and galleries). Weddings and other events with limited capacity and physical distancing.
<b>GREEN</b>	All special occasions and cultural and leisure activities permitted with precautions in place.

Working or running a business	
<b>LOCKDOWN</b>	Work from home if possible. List of businesses required to close. 2m requirement in workplaces where not possible to work from home.
<b>RED</b>	More outdoor work and click-and-collect retail. Businesses not required to close (e.g. construction) reopening under safe working practices.
<b>AMBER</b>	Non-essential retail to reopen with physical distancing. Trial some personal services under appointment (e.g. hairdressers). Accommodation businesses open without shared facilities.
<b>GREEN</b>	Restaurants, pubs and customer contact industries under physical distancing. All businesses and workplaces open under new protocols.

Going shopping	
<b>LOCKDOWN</b>	Essential retail only face-to-face.
<b>RED</b>	<b>Include click-and-collect for non-essential retail.</b> Begin making adaptations to public realm (e.g. town centres).
<b>AMBER</b>	Can access most non-essential retail where adaptations are possible to maintain physical distancing. Town centres and high streets adapted to facilitate shopping and accessing services under physical distancing.
<b>GREEN</b>	Able to access all retail and leisure facilities whilst taking reasonable precautions.



<b>Going shopping</b>	
<b>LOCKDOWN</b>	Access to emergency or essential services only.
<b>RED</b>	Increase the availability of public services gradually (e.g. waste and recycling, libraries). Increase scope of essential health and Social Care services
<b>AMBER</b>	Continue to increase the availability of public services. Increase access to non-essential health and care services (e.g. elective surgery, dentistry).
<b>GREEN</b>	Access to all normal public, health and social care services under physical distancing where possible or precautions in other settings.