

- be guided by the evidence, and regularly review research and development needs, in collaboration with research partners, to enhance our pandemic preparedness and response.
- 3.6 The UK Government and the Devolved Administrations have been planning an initial response based on information available at the time, in a context of uncertainty, that can be scaled up and down in response to new information to ensure a flexible and proportionate response.
- 3.7 The fundamental objectives are to deploy phased actions to Contain, Delay, and Mitigate any outbreak, using Research to inform policy development.
- 3.8 The different phases, types and scale of actions depends upon how the course of the outbreak unfolds over time. We monitor local, national and international data continuously to model what might happen next, over the immediate and longer terms.
- 3.9 The overall phases of our plan to respond to COVID-19 are:
- **Contain:** detect early cases, follow up close contacts, and prevent the disease taking hold in this country for as long as is reasonably possible
 - **Delay:** slow the spread in this country, if it does take hold, lowering the peak impact and pushing it away from the winter season
 - **Research:** better understand the virus and the actions that will lessen its effect on the UK population; innovate responses including diagnostics, drugs and vaccines; use the evidence to inform the development of the most effective models of care
 - **Mitigate:** provide the best care possible for people who become ill, support hospitals to maintain essential services and ensure ongoing support for people ill in the community to minimise the overall impact of the disease on society, public services and on the economy.