

FM press conference – May 11, 2020

- Prynawn da
- Later this afternoon, some very modest changes to the coronavirus regulations will come into force in Wales.
- I set out these changes out on Friday – and the reasons why the Welsh Government is making them in Wales.
- Here in Wales, we will change the regulations so people can exercise more than once a day and allow garden centres to open, if they can comply with social distancing.
- These are very small changes and they do not change our overall advice to people in Wales:
 - Wherever you can you should stay at home.
 - Wherever you can you should work from home.
 - If you need to leave home for exercise you must stay local.
 - Coronavirus has not gone away
 - The way we behave over the weeks ahead will continue to have a profound impact on our NHS and our ability to save lives.
 - Social distancing and handwashing continues to be very important to prevent the spread of the virus.
- There has been a lot of focus over the weekend about the differences between the way the regulations are being updated in Wales and in other parts of the UK.
- The fundamental direction of travel is the same here as in other parts of the UK – the stay-at-home regulations remain in place. All parts of the UK are this week making very small adjustments to the current regulations.
 - The details will depend on the unique circumstances of each country.
- However, there are differences in the messaging between Wales and England and I am concerned this may confuse people.
- This morning, I received my weekly update from the four police chief constables in Wales.
- They have reported a distinct increase in activity over the bank holiday weekend, particularly after many national newspapers reported a major easing of the lockdown was on the horizon.
 - They also saw an increase in alcohol-related violence associated with VE Day celebrations and increased traffic across many areas of the road network.

- They have concerns traffic flow into Wales could continue to increase as a result of the Prime Minister's announcement that travel to exercise will be allowed in England
- I want to be clear – in Wales, Welsh rules will apply.
- Travelling to Wales to exercise is not exercising locally.
- We will use whatever means are available to convey this message, including signs on the major roads and motorways and articles in local newspapers along our borders.
- We will continue to make decisions, which are right for Wales, using information and expert advice about how coronavirus is circulating here to keep us safe.
- The health of the public is paramount. It will inform our decisions and we will continue to inform you as we plan for our future in the weeks ahead.
- We have already published a framework to help us make decisions about how and when we can ease the lockdown regulations. We will continue to develop this framework throughout the week to create a more detailed roadmap, based on the latest scientific advice.
 - I will provide further details about this work later this week.
- Thank you for all your help and support. Together we can do this.