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MEMORANDUM E (20) 218 (C)

**FROM: ROBIN SWANN MLA
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

DATE: 21 September 2020

TO: EXECUTIVE COLLEAGUES

**FINAL EXECUTIVE PAPER: NEED FOR URGENT RESTRICTIONS IN
ADDITIONAL AREAS**

1. There has been a substantial increase in COVID cases over the weekend, with 222 reported on Saturday and 176 on Sunday. This has been associated with increases in Belfast and neighbouring postcodes and rapid increases in areas contiguous with border areas of ROI where significantly increased numbers have also been reported (Louth and Donegal).
2. There is marked variation in COVID cases in Local Government Districts, with Causeway Coast and Glens the lowest. There have been substantial increases in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Newry, Mourne and Down, and Belfast.
3. New COVID cases per 100K population over the last 7 days by LGD:

	31- 24th Aug	6- Aug	14- Sep	19-Sep	LGD
	30.9	33.0	45.6	49.1	39.3
	7.5	7.5	18.0	20.5	42.9
	6.1	43.4	37.4	41.6	68.2
	22.2	41.0	62.0	43.6	77.2
	21.5	11.8	15.3	4.2	11.1
	19.2	8.0	11.9	27.9	76.3
	1.7	3.4	13.7	13.7	27.4
	19.4	22.2	47.1	38.8	50.6
	68.5	31.0	46.8	25.9	36.0
	6.8	6.1	8.8	6.8	18.3
	7.8	21.7	24.4	20.6	64.4

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4. Further insight is possible from looking at a postcode level. COVID cases for postcodes with an incidence of >40/100k over the last seven days are shown below, with postcodes which are currently the subject of local restrictions highlighted in red, and those above 80 without current restrictions highlighted in blue, and those between 60 and 80 without restrictions highlighted in green:

Postcode	Cases	Cases / 100k over 7 days	
BT82	44	170.8	Strabane
BT34	84	140.8	Newry
BT29	16	120.4	
BT68	1	114.3	Caledon (population <10k)
BT7	21	110.8	
BT92	16	105.1	Enniskillen
BT25	15	100.3	Dromore
BT17	32	98.9	
BT2	1	98.5	
BT14	30	94.2	
BT60	28	93.2	Armagh
BT12	26	90.3	
BT11	25	89.2	
BT62	27	88.1	Craigavon
BT4	22	86.2	
BT9	24	83.7	
BT48	48	81.4	Derry / Londonderry
BT66	23	71.6	Craigavon
BT35	31	71.5	Newry
BT13	16	69.2	
BT63	13	67.3	Craigavon
BT27	14	65.4	Lisburn
BT67	15	63.5	Craigavon
BT93	6	62.1	Enniskillen
BT36	28	62.1	Newtownabbey
BT19	22	60.0	Bangor
BT15	16	59.5	
BT56	4	59.4	
BT18	8	59.2	
BT1	1	57.0	
BT10	7	55.7	
BT28	22	55.0	
BT61	8	51.4	
BT65	4	51.2	
BT21	4	51.2	
BT55	4	49.7	

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BT23	26	49.0
BT43	10	45.9
BT64	1	45.7
BT40	11	42.7
BT38	17	42.2
BT69	1	42.0
BT8	12	41.7
BT32	10	41.1

5. Of note, cases are rising rapidly in a number of border areas contiguous to counties of ROI which have also recorded a high incidence (Louth, Donegal). This includes South Down, Armagh, parts of Fermanagh and Tyrone and Derry / Londonderry.
6. There are a number of high incidence postcodes in the Craigavon area.
7. The high incidence in Newry and the Craigavon area are of particular concern in the context of local hospital outbreaks.
8. In addition, there is an overall increase in Belfast despite local restrictions which will need to be kept under close review.
9. Test, trace and protect has not identified significant clusters to explain the high incidence in any of these areas – cases are mainly household or community (unknown) transmission.
10. A number of other postcodes could easily reach an incidence of 80 in the next couple of days.

Recommendation / Decision sought

11. I recommend that the Executive agree to one of the following recommendations:
 - a) That local restrictions should be extended as soon as possible to those postcodes with an incidence over 80/100k over the last seven days, and to neighbouring postcodes which are close to 80.

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This would include the following postcodes: 25, 34, 48, 60, 62, 68, 82, 92,

Or

- b) That local restrictions should be extended to the following postcodes (to include those postcodes above plus some neighbouring areas at high risk – see map in Annex A)

25, 34-35, 48, 60-68, 81-82, 92-93

Or

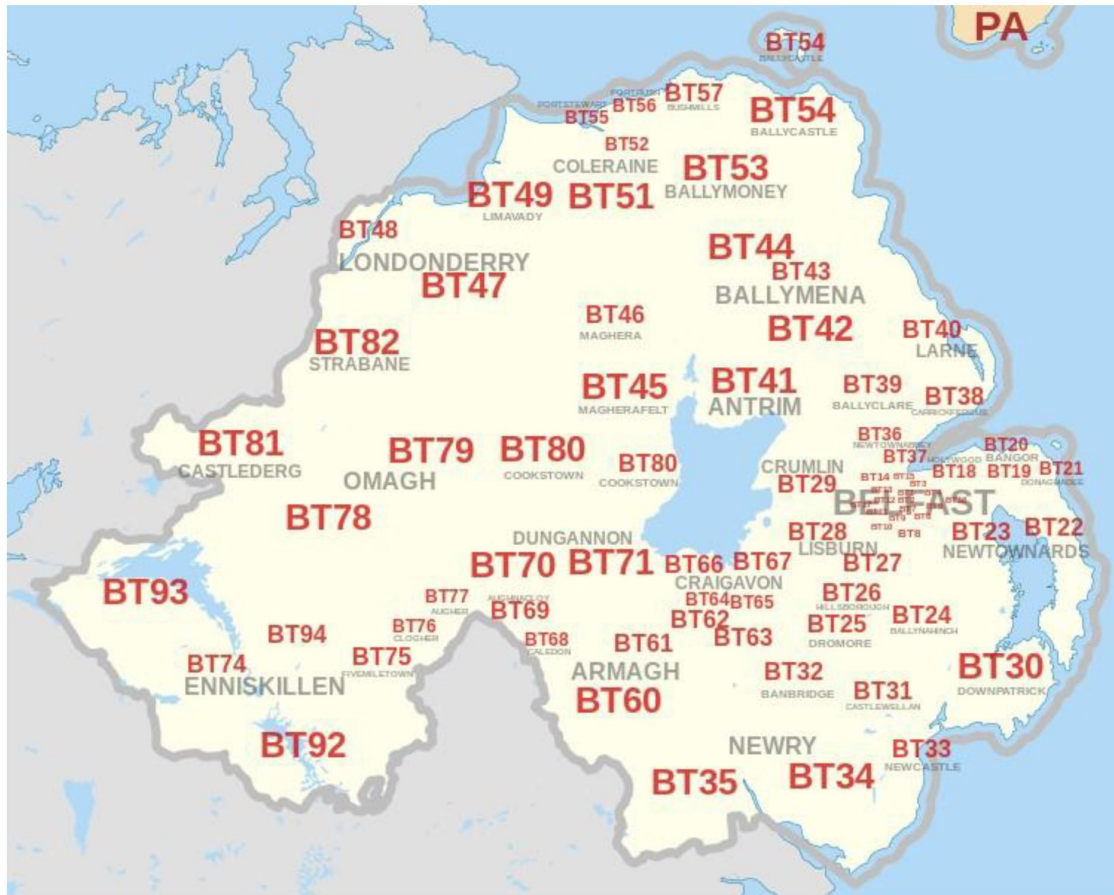
- c) That current local restrictions are applied NI wide.
- 12. That this should be accompanied by strong messaging about the possible need to apply further local restrictions if numbers continue to arise.
 - 13. That the Executive should consider at its next meeting options for further restrictions should these be required.

**ROBIN SWANN MLA
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Annex A

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