

Message

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Sent: 04/01/2021 18:29:18
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Subject: URGENT First Minister call with CDL - New Lockdown Measures in England

The FM/CDL call just now explained that the move to the JBC Alert Level 5 would be announced at 6pm and the PM would make a statement to the nation at 8pm.

England would be put into national lockdown from tonight which would mean:

- People would have to remain in their homes only able to leave for a defined set of permitted reasons including shopping, work, education, medical reasons and exercise (this list may not be exhaustive);
- Shielding would be reintroduced;
- The measures would be in place until 15 February with no review before then;
- Primary and secondary schools will be closed until then with remote learning;
- Students in higher education are not expected to return until the end of February;
- Communal worship will continue;
- Outdoor sports venues, courts etc will be closed;
- Alcohol served as a takeaway will be banned; and
- the hope is that the vaccination programme will be well underway by mid February and provide a basis for an exit strategy.

The UK Government will be looking at international travel restrictions and would be keen to agree a common position with the DAs in the next 24 hours or so; along with establishing some unity of messaging around the gravity of the situation. CDL also pointed out that these measures were not unprecedented and most EU countries had taken similar steps.

[NR] – would you be able to include the bullet points in your comparative table for the Cabinet paper please and if available, send a copy of the table to the FM for the 9am call tomorrow.

NR – it wasn't clear whether the return to shielding would also include putting arrangements in place for food provision, supermarket priority delivery slots or the other provisions from the earlier shielding programme. Could you check with the UK government please.

NR – not sure whether you are aware of the position on HE and if that will impact on any guidance you have/are providing to institutions in Wales.

NR – to note the likelihood of travel regulations.

Unless there any significant differences emerge between us and the rest of the UK, the intention is to proceed with our 21 day review as planned, although undertaking the work on re-validating the guidance, looking again at workplaces and engaging external partners in parallel.

Reg Kilpatrick

Director General, Covid Crisis Coordination

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