

**Departmental Comments provided by: June Ingram**

- The Minister for Health's paper seeks Executive agreement to introduce additional restrictions in Derry City and Strabane LGD area as soon as practically possible (in addition to the measures currently in place across NI).
- The paper identifies widespread community transmission in several parts of NI, with the Derry City and Strabane local government district having an incidence of 266.1/100k population as of today.
- Citing the clear evidence of significant and continuing community transmission, and the proximity to Donegal where additional restrictions are already in place, it is recommended the Executive agree to introduce the following additional restrictions in Derry City and Strabane LGD area as soon as practically possible:
  - No indoor gatherings should take place where people from different households are mixed, with exemptions to this for;
    - weddings and funerals, as in the existing regulations,
    - services of worship in places of worship,
    - Indoor sport for individual training only (e.g. no exercise classes),
    - workplace where working from home is not possible, and
    - educational settings
  - Hospitality venues can remain open for take-away, delivery and outdoor dining only, with existing outdoor restrictions as is. Hotels can only provide services to residents.
  - All museums, galleries and cultural attractions must remain closed. Libraries can operate a call and collect service.
  - Outdoor gatherings are permitted, up to a maximum of 15 people – there will be no allowance for gatherings above 15 with a risk assessment. There would be an exemption for

sports training and sporting events although they would be required to take place without spectators.

- People living in Derry and Strabane LGD area should avoid all unnecessary travel. Similarly, people should only travel to the LGD area where it is absolutely necessary.
  - People working in Derry and Strabane LGD area must work from home unless absolutely necessary.
  - Schools, Early Learning and Childcare services in the LGD area should remain open. Adult and Higher Education Institutions should remain open, but are asked to review protective measures and take steps to limit congregation as much as possible.
  - People are asked to walk, cycle or use private transport, shared only with members of their household where possible.
- The Executive is asked to agree that the following would be recommended in guidance:
    - People living in Derry and Strabane LGD area should avoid all unnecessary travel. Similarly, people should only travel to the LGD area where it is absolutely necessary.
    - People working in Derry and Strabane LGD area must work from home unless absolutely necessary.
    - Schools, Early Learning and Childcare services in the LGD area should remain open. Adult and Higher Education Institutions should remain open, but are asked to review protective measures and take steps to limit congregation as much as possible.
    - People are asked to walk, cycle or use private transport, shared only with members of their household where possible.
- The application of guidance relating to indoor gatherings should take place where people from different households are mixed

requires clarifying whether this extends to the retail sector - if not a further exemption is required – for example is visiting a supermarket with more than 15 persons to be excluded?

- The Executive should consider the availability of financial support packages to support business and the jobs that rely on them within these restrictions.
- It is estimated that approximately 300 businesses in the accommodation and food sector across Derry & Strabane LGD will be impacted by the restrictions on hospitality.
- The Department welcomes the proposal that adult education institutions remain open in the event of any localised lockdown in Derry City and Strabane LGD.
- Further Education Colleges and Non-statutory contractors have provided assurances that they have completed the necessary risk assessments in relation to COVID-19 and that they are operating in accordance with the Framework for the Safe Resumption of Onsite Educational Provision and Related Activity (Framework Document) this Framework Document.
- In the event of any localised lockdown agreed by the Executive, the Department will request that those within the Derry City and Strabane LGB re-satisfy themselves that they are doing so.

**FROM: DIANE DODDS MLA**

**Our Ref:**

**Your Ref:**

**DATE: 01 October 2020**

**TO: Robin Swann MLA**

**ADDITIONAL NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS FOR  
THE NORTH WEST REGION EXECUTIVE PAPER:**

Thank you for your draft Executive paper of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 regarding the above.

I have noted your paper and would ask that clarification of the restriction of indoor gatherings does not apply to businesses in the retail sector. I do not believe it is the policy intention to close or restrict this important part of the economy but would like to see this confirmed.

For those businesses just re-opened, such as the wet pubs, these measures, if implemented will be a further blow to their financial viability at the exact time of UK-wide lifelines being scaled back.

In considering any changes to restrictions, we must consider the following:

- What scientific evidence the proposal to close indoor hospitality is based on, given that recent messaging from CMO and CSA attributes the spread of the virus in primarily in the domestic setting?
- How long these restrictions are for, and when and how this would be reviewed?
- What criteria has been established for when an area would move into these types of restrictions, and likewise what the criteria would be to remove same restrictions?
- What additional circumstances are taken into consideration, specifically what the economic impact would be and how the Exec would compensate those businesses?

I am copying this to the Attorney General, Departmental Solicitor's Office, First Legislative Counsel and to Executive Secretariat.

**DIANE DODDS MLA**