

- Survey data continues to indicate a degree of household mixing between people who are not in the same extended household. This is accompanied by a misunderstanding of the risks of transmission associated with meeting others. The evidence suggests increased mixing indoors poses a substantial risk.
- The fewer households and individuals mix, the lower the risk of transmission, hospitalisation and deaths.

Evidence from surveys indicates that many people say they follow the guidelines and regulations in Wales. These actions have had a positive impact in helping to control coronavirus. However, even greater efforts are required to minimise the spread of the virus – it is important we all continue to make every effort to reduce our risks. This means thinking about ‘what we should do’ not ‘what we can do’.

Small breaches of these behaviours can have a big impact if lots of people do the same things. Everyone needs to play their part.

As a government, we will provide clear guidance about what we are asking people to do and why, based on the best available evidence. Providing a clear rationale for the restrictions being imposed is important. Evidence will not always be conclusive as we continue to learn about coronavirus and how it spreads. We must therefore take a cautious approach when the risk is highest.

Sticking to behaviours which have been communicated for many months remains at the heart of what we are asking people to continue to do for their own health and for others. These include:

- Avoiding mixing with other households.
- Maintaining hand hygiene and physical distancing.
- Wearing a face covering where required to do so.
- Working from home wherever possible.
- Keeping your home well ventilated.

The start of the COVID-19 vaccine programme is a real glimmer of hope in what has been a very difficult year but this is not the end of the pandemic. It is more important than ever that we continue to follow the rules and reduce our contacts with other people during the winter months. There is no room for complacency.

We will continue to make every effort to promote these necessary behaviours and support people in their efforts to follow the guidance and regulations in place at any point in time in different settings.