

Current Approach & Exit Strategy



The current approach is to suppress the transmission rate (R_0) below 1, keep numbers requiring critical care below ICU capacity, and shield the most vulnerable.

This is not sustainable indefinitely and there will be choices about the exit strategy. There are three possible approaches:

- **Vaccination:** achieve herd immunity through new vaccine – unlikely to be available at scale for at least 18 months and cannot be guaranteed
- **Eradication:** track-and-treat unlikely to be effective without global deployment of a new, powerful treatment, due to highly infectious nature of Covid-19, possible pre-symptomatic infectious period and risk of reintroduction from overseas
- **Controlled release:** allow herd immunity to build slowly while shielding high-risk individuals, titrating release against NHS capacity. This is currently the only viable option.

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