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Welsh Government

PRESS RELEASE

First Minister of Wales' statement on coronavirus lockdown extension

First Minister of Wales' speech on the COVID-19 lockdown extension following today's COBR meeting.

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The First Minister said:

“ Earlier this afternoon, I, along with the First Ministers of Scotland and Northern Ireland attended the UK

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government's COBR meeting.

- “ We each confirmed our decisions that the current restrictions on movement to protect the NHS and so to save lives should continue for another 3 weeks.
- “ This is based on expert scientific analysis of the latest data on the coronavirus outbreak across the UK.
- “ I know that the last 3 weeks have been very difficult for many people.
- “ I want to thank everyone in Wales for the way each of us is dealing with these challenging circumstances.
- “ While we have seen some positive signs in the data, it is still too early to change course in dealing with this deadly virus.
- “ Many more lives are at stake, and too many families have already lost loved ones.
- “ Nevertheless, the decision to extend the lockdown is not one that has been taken lightly.
- “ But I am clear that we cannot risk throwing away all the sacrifices we have made here in Wales over the last few weeks by lifting the restrictions too soon.
- “ That could mean more deaths and, in the long run, even greater impact on people's jobs and livelihoods.
- “ Our approach will continue to be driven by the best information and the best advice we can secure.
- “ We will go on taking the decisions that are right for Wales , and at the right time so that together we go on protecting our NHS and so to save lives. ”