

“As has previously been stated, there will not be a sharp transition between containment and delay phases. Many of the actions taken during containment will still continue in any delay phase. Responses may vary between different regions, depending on the circumstances.

“I would again urge everyone to continue doing everything they can to prevent the spread of the virus. All our citizens can play their part in protecting themselves and others. Good respiratory hygiene when coughing or sneezing – Catch it, Bin it, Kill it by putting the tissue into the bin.

“Washing our hands with soap and water for 20 seconds at a time before touching our mouth, nose or eyes, before preparing food, before eating and after toileting can make a real difference in delaying the spread of the virus.”

Notes to editors:

1. Detailed information and advice on coronavirus is available from the [Public Health Agency website](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus) (<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>).
2. For media enquiries please contact DoH Press Office on 028 9052 0636 or email pressoffice@health-ni.gov.uk (<mailto:pressoffice@health-ni.gov.uk>) . For out-of-hours please contact the Duty Press Officer on 028 9037 8110.
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