



Gerald Jones MP

Dawn Bowden AM



Joint Coronavirus Update

New 'traffic light' roadmap for lifting lockdown in Wales

On Friday, the Welsh Government published new guidance for the route out of the lockdown in Wales. The guidance is based on a traffic light system – red, amber and green.

Currently, Wales remains in the black 'lockdown' phase, which means the 'stay at home' message still applies. Wales will next move to the **red** phase, where the Welsh Government will be able to begin lifting some of the restrictions.

First Minister of Wales Mark Drakeford has warned that until there is a vaccine then "we will have to live with the disease in our society, and to try to control its spread and mitigate its effects".

Staying at home – except for specified reasons – remains the best way to stop the spread of the disease, and that is the advice which remains in place at this time. We urge constituents to keep following the current measures in the weeks ahead.

The roadmap from the Welsh Government on lifting the lockdown in Wales, including a full breakdown of the red, amber and green phases, can be accessed here: <https://gov.wales/unlocking-our-society-and-economy-wales-roadmap-published>

Guidance for schools

The Welsh Government has also published guidance for schools, allowing planning work for reopening to begin and setting out ideas for how schools may be able to operate in the next phase of lockdown. You can access the full guidance [here](#).

Changes in lockdown measures: advice and guidance

From 11th May, the Welsh Government has made some minor changes to the lockdown in Wales. These include allowing people to exercise locally as many times a day as they wish, allowing garden centres to open - if they can comply with social distancing measures - and allowing councils to reopen libraries and recycling centres.

New Welsh Government guidance which sets out what you can and can't do under the updated lockdown measures is available here: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

Welsh Government stay-at-home regulations Q&A: <https://www.geraldjones.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/256/2020/05/Welsh-Government-Coronavirus-Regulations-QA-11th-May.pdf>

UK Government extends furlough scheme

The UK Government has extended its Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which pays 80% of furloughed employees' wages at companies affected by coronavirus, until the end of October 2020. More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-furlough-scheme-until-october>

While the support that the scheme provides is hugely welcome, we recognise that many people are still unfortunately missing out due to the cut-off date, with new starters who were not on their companies' payrolls on or before 19th March 2020 currently ineligible for the support.

Gerald has raised this with the Chancellor in Parliament and urged him to revise the scheme to make sure those currently missing out are included, and we will keep constituents updated on any further changes to the scheme.

Support scheme for the self-employed now open for applications

The UK Government's financial support scheme for the self-employed, which allows self-employed people to claim a taxable grant of 80% of their average monthly profits, also opened for applications on 13th May.

For more information and to check eligibility and apply for the grant, click here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

Business Wales information on financial support available to people in Wales:
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/support/financial-support-and-grants>

NHS emergency services still open

The Welsh Government is stressing that the NHS remains open in Wales, and people suffering serious health issues should continue to use emergency services.

It's important to avoid a backlog of serious health issues, so plans are being made to restore many services and provide safe working methods, and we urge constituents not to avoid accessing NHS emergency services if they need urgent help.

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Welsh Government launches new plan for testing in Wales

On Wednesday, the Welsh Government published its new strategy to test the public and trace the spread of coronavirus in Wales.

Mass testing and technology will be at the heart of its new *Test, Trace and Protect* strategy, which is designed to help Wales move to the next stage of the response to the virus.

The plan includes:

- Increasing testing of critical workers to enable them to return to work
- A new system of home testing for the public if they have coronavirus symptoms
- A new app to track symptoms in the general population and contact others who have symptoms or have tested positive.

The exact number of tests Wales will need every day will depend on the level of coronavirus circulating in the community and the emerging evidence about how testing should be deployed to prevent infection.

This will be kept under review by the Welsh Government.

More information on the strategy can be found here on the Welsh Government's website: <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect>

Welsh Government Q&A on testing in Wales: <https://www.geraldjones.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/256/2020/05/Welsh-Government-Coronavirus-Testing-QA.pdf>

As always, should you have any queries or if you feel there's an issue we can help with, please contact our offices using the details below.

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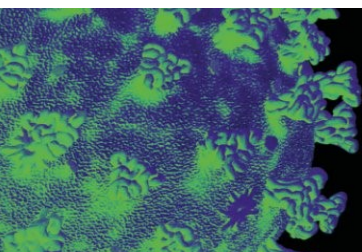
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CORONAVIRUS

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gov.wales/coronavirus