

Good afternoon.

It has been an exceptionally busy couple of days preparing for today's press conference. The Civil Contingencies Authorities met at length yesterday to agree new Regulations, which primarily consolidate all the previous Regulations made and approved by the States last week. These Regulations came into effect at midnight and are effective for 30 days. These provide the framework for us continuing to manage this emergency.

What I am going to do today is set out our agreed exit strategy. In short, it relies on contact tracing, testing and quarantine, phased release and adaptive triggering – and we will explain in greater detail what all that means. Heidi is going to explain what is going to happen over the next 7 days. And Dr Brink is going to speak to the science behind our decision making. Nikki has also kindly agreed to do a FaceBook Live event next week which will allow her to go into a b

it more detail.

As we said on Wednesday and Nikki will tell us again today, we are in very good place right now but we cannot afford to be complacent with this virus. We have, against the odds, managed to remain in the contain phase of the pandemic.

I know some of you like to hear the big decisions early. So here goes. Schools will remain closed for the first 5 weeks of the new school term up until the scheduled half term at the end of May – albeit that this will be kept under constant review during that period. We've decided to do it this way – in other words rather than simply making a decision week by week so that everyone has as much notice as possible and can plan accordingly. If it is possible to restart schools – even for just some year groups – during that 5 week period, that will be a bonus. In the place of teaching at schools, a remote or distance learning programme will begin next week. Further details of this will be provided by Education Services and head teachers to parents and carers.

I want to talk for a moment about the decision making process and who makes the decisions. Many think that it is just Heidi, Nikki and I. It is not. Neither is it just the Civil Contingencies Authority which includes, by law, Deputies Lowe and Brehaut as presidents of their respective committees. The CCA is in essence an emergency law making body that then gives powers to other people or Committees to make decisions – such as the Medical Officer of

Health or the Committees for Home Affairs or Health & Social Care. I've spoken about this before, but it is increasingly obvious to me that this it is not particularly efficient, effective or satisfactory as a way to make critical decisions in an emergency. The CCA has developed, with advice from Public Health, the exit strategy, but the CCA is not the body that will decide its execution. That is confusing for everybody involved, not least the public. That is not a criticism or any one – it's just a statement of fact. As we develop our economic and fiscal recovery plan we need a single group of decision makers, with all the relevant information, empowered to make the key decisions. Achieving that is in my view our next priority.

On 1st January, the world was one bubble. All 7 billion of us could move within it at will. Since then, as first Wuhan locked down and then pretty much everywhere else, to one extent or another, we have moved to a situation where here in the Bailiwick, we are now operating within 28 or 30,000 household bubbles. The rock solid, safest option would be to maintain a full lockdown in household bubbles until the virus burns itself out or a vaccine is developed – but by that time the Bailiwick's entire social and economic fabric would be in ruins, so it is simply not an option.

So any exit strategy and modelling has to be about how we allow bubbles to interact and the number of bubbles to safely reduce. And the way we do that is by phased releases. I can only outline the strategy today. It will be published in the next few days. And much more detail and guidance will follow. What I can say, is that in planning this, as Nikki said on Wednesday, our top priority is not to squander the significant gains made so far by the success of the lockdown in squashing the curve. To do that, means we need to be able to continue to test any suspect cases and then rapidly trace any contacts around any positives who are isolated. To ensure we can effectively contact trace, we need to avoid too many of our bubbles mixing too much.

Phase 1 began on 8th April when we allowed contactless home delivery. Phase 2 will begin at 0001 on Saturday 25th one week tomorrow. In Phase 2, most of us will need continue to stay at home in our household bubble, as the Bailiwick remains in lockdown, with social distancing measures strictly enforced, with fines of up to £10,000; schools will remain closed but some low-risk businesses can open where minimal contact can be maintained. Heidi will outline what will be permissible in phase 2

Activities that will NOT be permitted in Phase 2 are non-essential services involving direct personal contact such as hair and beauty treatments. Physio- and other contact therapies will not be permitted, except where deemed medically essential. Public venues, including gyms and sports venues, churches and community centres, cinemas, restaurants, hotels, bars and clubs will all remain closed.

In Phase 2, therefore, those who can safely be allowed to restart their economic activity will effectively be allowed to move from their household bubble to their work bubble and back again, but no more. I must emphasise that in deciding what can or cannot function in each phase is not about making value judgements about different jobs. It is simply about what jobs carry more or less risk in terms of contact with people outside your bubble.

I can't tell you today when Phase 3 will begin – although it will be kept under constant review - but when it does, in Phase 3 we will have free movement around the island but off island travel will still be very limited. The borders will remain very tight. Schools and most businesses will be open under public health controls. Much of the local economy, including non-essential retail shops will be able to function. Hotels, restaurants and kiosks will be able to open. Travel and other tourism related business activity is likely to be limited either by continuing restrictions or perhaps more likely by the lack of external business. Public venues will be able to open - but higher risk venues such as bars and nightclubs may well remain closed or be subject to restrictions.

Phase 4 will be the new normal with all travel routes open, but there may be longer term impacts on the business as usual which will require the immediate implementation of a strategic economic recovery plan.

Central to the exit strategy is the clear identification of adaptive triggering which would return us to a state of full lockdown, if required. These adaptive triggers are being developed by Public Health and Nikki can talk about them, but could for example include: an ICU trigger; a ward trigger; a critical staffing trigger; or a community prevalence trigger or a combination of them all.

You will have many, many questions about what all of this means for you. As ever, we will not have all the answers. What we will do is attempt to push out as quickly as we can over the next few days as much information and guidance

as possible about the strategy, so we can then start answering the questions that you still have.

Thank you once again for supporting the Stay at Home directive. We know how difficult it is for many of you individually; for your families; for your businesses; and for your finances. If we could avoid it we would. But you really do just have look elsewhere to see how much havoc this disease can cause if it is not contained – healthcare systems have been overwhelmed and people have died before their time. The virus is not of our making but as a community, how we respond to it is under our control; and how we control it can mitigate both the loss of lives and damage to our economy. The better grip we have now, the better the whole community will be when this wretched thing passes.