

## **STRICT NEW RULES ON STAYING AT HOME AND AWAY FROM OTHERS COME INTO FORCE MIDNIGHT WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2020**

The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the Island, our medical infrastructure and save lives.

When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. That is why the States of Guernsey is now (25 March 2020) introducing three new measures.

1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for very limited purposes
2. Closing non-essential shops and community spaces
3. Stopping all gatherings of more than two people in public

Every Islanders must comply with these new measures. The relevant authorities, including the police, will be given the powers to enforce them – including through fines and dispersing gatherings.

These measures are effective from midnight tonight (Wednesday 25 March 2020). The States of Guernsey will look again at these measures in 14 days, and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.

### **1. STAYING AT HOME**

You should only leave the house for one of four reasons.

- Shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- Up to two hours exercise a day, to include walking, cycling, running or sea swimming or other open sea activities alone or with members of your household. If sea swimming or open sea activities are undertaken they may be undertaken with one other person present, for safety reasons, provided social distancing is maintained and it is understood that such swimming or open sea activities are undertaken at the individual's own risk. People will be able to tend livestock and animals such as horses
- Any medical need, if instructed to do so by a healthcare worker or required to do so having called 999, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- Travelling to and from work if you are a critical work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

These four reasons are exceptions - even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household.

These measures must be followed by everyone. Separate advice is available for individuals or households who are isolating, and for the most vulnerable who need to be shielded.

If you work in a **critical sector**<sup>1</sup> or your child has been identified as vulnerable, you can continue to take your children to school. Where parents do not live in the same household, children under 18 can be moved between their parents' homes

## 2. CLOSING NON-ESSENTIAL SHOPS AND PUBLIC SPACES

The States of Guernsey is ordering certain businesses and other venues to close with immediate effect. Including:

- **Pubs**
- **Clubs**
- **Cinemas**
- **Restaurants/cafes**
- **All non essential retail stores** – essential retail stores are limited to food and pharmacy goods.
- **Libraries**
- **Community centres**
- **Youth centres**
- **Indoor and outdoor leisure facilities** – such as soft play facilities and outdoor play areas
- **Communal places within parks** , such as playgrounds, sports courts and outdoor gyms.
- **Places of worship**
- **Hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, and boarding houses for commercial/leisure use (excluding permanent residents and key workers).**

**If you're not on the list or you're not sure you need to take advice before opening by 01481 733017 or email [educationsportandculture@gov.gg](mailto:educationsportandculture@gov.gg)**

## 3. STOPPING PUBLIC GATHERINGS

To make sure people are staying at home and apart from each other, the States of Guernsey is also **stopping all public gatherings of more than two people.**

There are only two exceptions to this rule:

- **Where the gathering is of a group of people who live together** - this means that a parent can, for example, take their children to the shops if there is no option to leave them at home.

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<sup>1</sup> See [gov.gg/coronavirus](http://gov.gg/coronavirus) for details of those roles considered essential.

- **Where the gathering is essential for work purposes** - but workers should be trying to minimise all meetings and other gatherings in the workplace.

In addition, the States of Guernsey is stopping social events, including weddings, baptisms and other religious ceremonies. This will exclude funerals, which can be attended by immediate family.

### **DELIVERING THESE NEW MEASURES**

These measures will reduce our day to day contact with other people. They are a vital part of our efforts to reduce the rate of transmission of coronavirus.

**Every Islander is instructed to comply with these new measures.**

**The States of Guernsey will therefore be ensuring the police and other relevant authorities have the powers to enforce them, including through fines and dispersing gatherings where people do not comply.**

They will initially last for the 14 days from 24 March 2020, at which point we will look at them again and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.

**24 March 2020**