

The Bailiwick has had no new positive cases of COVID-19 since 30 April 2020, and has been in Phase 5 for 3 weeks.

Given we have moved through the phases of the framework more quickly than we expected, we have been able to turn our attention to planning for how we will move safely to Phase 6 – our reconnection with the outside world.

Our key priority for Phase 6 is to establish safe entry and exit at our borders - but at the same time, we must also continue to plan our response to the following scenarios:

- the re-emergence of a single case or a cluster of cases, which cannot be effectively contained by test, track and trace.
- A second global wave of COVID-19.
- And winter planning for normal winter influenza which may be complicated by a COVID-19.

And alongside that, we are also planning for the introduction of any vaccine – making sure we have all the right resources in place to roll it out if and when it arrives, which Dr Brink will speak about.

We are going to set out the roadmap agreed yesterday by the Civil Contingencies Authority for how we safely move into Phase 6 – which is going to be our main focus today. We have also asked Deputy Lyndon Trott to join us to speak a little more about government's business support measures, on which he has been leading and the Revive & Thrive

Strategy – recognising that the health of the economy and our recovery is a priority too.

When I posted on social media a couple of days ago that we would be having this briefing today focussed on travel, I was deluged with pleas not to open the borders; with a smattering from some others claiming that the economy would be ruined unless we opened up immediately. I must say: neither group is being realistic.

As ever, we have some difficult judgements to make; but our focus is, as it has always been, on ensuring that any changes are well informed, evidenced; are well planned and then are executed safely and effectively; and underpinning all decisions is the premise that we are simply not prepared to imperil the substantial gains we have made – gains made after great sacrifice by our community and economy. Those gains include not only the return to our pre-Covid way of life within the Bailiwick, but importantly the restarting of 97% of our economy.

But we also know that being transparent – showing our homework if you like – is incredibly important and it also allows everyone – families, businesses and the travel operators – to plan ahead.

So cutting to the chase: we will **not** be opening the borders – in other words permitting unrestricted or unquarantined travel - before 1st September. The trial that finishes today – which permits 7 day rather than 14 day self-isolation, if testing negative on day 7 – is very unlikely to be repeated or

extended before 1st September. The reason for this is simple. We have decided that our top priority between now and then, is to devote our resources to ensuring that we can safely open the borders from that date, 1st September. Dr Brink can explain the work that is required to get us safely to that point.

We will be publishing our homework shortly, namely the roadmap to Phase 6. You will see that it contains the same concept of 'adaptive triggers' that we had in the lockdown exit strategy, that has brought us safely through to phase 5. Dr Brink will speak more about those adaptive triggers, but a key one, will be the prevalence rate in the UK. At the moment, this continues to head in the right direction – in other words, down – but if that reverses, then that may impact our ability to enter Phase 6 on 1st September.

We are making some other changes with immediate effect in relation to the arrangements for travel on compassionate grounds and those required to travel for critical treatment and time bound travel. Deputy Soulsby will say a little more about these.

We are also introducing the concept of a 'business tunnel' – which Nikki will explain in more detail. This will permit essential, pre-notified business meetings, provided they can be accommodated within a day trip and in a strictly controlled environment, set out in a method statement. This will provide an even higher standard than those which have applied safely and successfully since March, for critical workers. This demonstrates that Guernsey is safely open for

business – which will be reassuring both for those travelling as well as our own community.

Bookings using the air bridge to the Isle of Man have exceeded all expectations. This will bring in a 1,000 previously unplanned visitors into our visitor economy. We are continuing to explore the development of further air bridges with other jurisdictions in the same position as ourselves. I will be speaking on Monday to the Icelandic Ambassador in London; and I have also this week written to the Prime Ministers of both Iceland and the Faroe Islands inviting a joint exploration of air bridge links. I don't know whether anything will come from this - but it surely has to be worth exploring to see if it could safely bring in more visitors to the Bailiwick.