

COVID-19 – Coronavirus

The pathway to Phase 6



As we plan the transition from Phase 5 to Phase 6 (the Bailiwick's return to the global community) of the safe exit from lockdown we continue to be reliant on the community working with us to minimise the occurrence of COVID-19 in the Bailiwick.

The key priority for Phase 6 is to establish safe entry and exit at our borders whilst we continue to plan for the Bailiwick's response to the following scenarios:

- Planning for the re-emergence of a single case
- Planning for the re-emergence of a cluster of cases
- A second wave of COVID-19 in the Bailiwick
- Winter planning for normal winter influenza which may be complicated by a second wave of COVID-19

The potential triggers for the move to Phase 6 – with no border controls are discussed below but include:

- No cases of COVID-19 from unexplained community transmission that cannot be effectively contained by test, track and trace;
- The continued availability of on-island testing and the capacity to test up to 1,000 samples or more per day;
- The continued availability of a community track and trace programme;
- Continued community engagement with Public Health messaging;
- Community prevalence in England based on the ONS data or other identified data sources;
- Evidence that prevalence data obtained from the Border Pilot of Day 7 testing aligns with prevalence data from the ONS in England;
- In the future, the reinstatement of Group A and B countries, based on an assessment of COVID-19 risks.

To facilitate the safe entry and exit at our borders various activities have been planned (or commenced) which will provide Public Health with statistics to understand the impact of this activity. It is important to note that no activity will be risk free and the measures that are being put in place will only reduce risks. It is likely that the Bailiwick will see another case(s) of COVID-19 but now has the infrastructure, including an established 'Test, Track and Trace Team', in place to manage those cases and contain the spread of the virus in the Bailiwick.

Activity that has already commenced



Testing on day 7 following arrival in the Bailiwick trial

The 7 day test Pilot commenced on 5 July 2020 and ran between the 5th and 10th of July inclusive. There was an absolute cap of 1,376 arrivals in total who arrived in the Bailiwick on a limited and specified number of Condor Ferries and Aurigny services.

Those who arrived in Guernsey were required to self-isolate for 14 days with a test for COVID-19 on the 7th day. If the test results were negative they would be released from self-isolation on the 8th day (or as soon as the negative result became available). Those transiting through Guernsey to Alderney and Sark were not eligible to take part in the pilot.

Between days 8 and 14 those leaving self-isolation were subject to passive follow up and were not allowed to leave the Island until after day 14 of arriving.



Establishment of an Air bridge with the Isle of Man

On Thursday 25 June, the Governments of Guernsey and the Isle of Man announced the launch of an 'Air bridge' allowing travel between the jurisdictions without the need for self-isolating on arrival. Commercial flights between the two jurisdictions commenced in July for an initial 6 week period.



Establishment of air and sea bridge with other jurisdictions

Investigations into the establishment of air and sea bridges between jurisdictions of comparable transmission, border controls and robust testing and contact tracing capabilities have commenced.



The establishment of Bailiwick Business Tunnels

We are aware that there is a requirement for some business transactions to take place face to face on-island.

Initially, travel in a business tunnel will be strictly limited to same day return travel only.

This type of travel will be facilitated without the need for mandatory self-isolation provided it is carried out in a **controlled environment**. Travel to and from the airport or harbour must not be on public transport. Social distancing of 1 metre should be implemented and contacts must be recorded for tracing purposes and should be minimised. Business meetings must be held in well ventilated offices and not in public places such as restaurants or bars.

An alternative would be a meeting place at the airport site. This would mean the recording of meeting attendants, together with the observation of social distancing of 1 metre and the implementation of hygienic precautions.



Compassionate Travel

Arrangements are now in place to allow travel for compassionate reasons. Compassionate travel is classified as:

- Travelling from and to the Bailiwick to visit a terminally ill person or attend a funeral;
- Travelling from and to the Bailiwick to support shared care arrangements for children and young people;
- Travelling from and to the Bailiwick to support an adult with complex needs or a learning disability for whom they have caring responsibilities for.

For full details of the requirements that have been put in place for compassionate travel, individuals will need to contact **publichealth@gov.gg** for a risk assessment and advice.



Healthcare Travel

Refining travel for islanders undergoing travel for critical and time-bound healthcare to allow them to return to the Island between treatments, we know will enhance the quality of life of those who are spending time in isolation in hotels in the UK.

For full details of the requirements that have been put in place for healthcare travel, individuals will need to contact the Medical Director through **population@gov.gg** for advice.

Planned activity to facilitate the transition to Phase 6



Travel from the UK with no requirement for mandatory self-isolation

To enable safe travel into and out of the Bailiwick we will need to monitor the COVID-19 activity of our near neighbours – in particular the UK. It is unlikely that this will commence before late summer or early autumn 2020.

The key trigger to enable travel from the UK with no self-isolation requirements will come from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and any other identified data sources. The Public Health target is a prevalence of 1 in 5000 or less on two consecutive points in time with the anticipated implementation of changes on the first of September if these criteria are met.

At the same time as we analyse the ONS data, we will align their data with the information gathered during the testing on day 7 pilot and the air bridge to the Isle of Man.

Additional mitigation to opening the borders could be testing for the virus at specified time-points with any period of self-isolation (if required) kept to an absolute minimum.



Travel from elsewhere in the world

Consideration is being given to the re-establishment of Group A and Group B countries.

Group A countries will still require a mandatory period of self-isolation. Decisions on the self-isolation requirements of Group B countries will be determined after an assessment of the local situation in the jurisdiction in question.

Consideration will also be given to a mandatory self-isolation period of 14 days for people travelling from an area which is in lock-down. It is still to be determined whether there will be a requirement for a person to have remained in the lockdown area for a pre-determined period or whether transiting through a lockdown area would also be considered a high risk.

Other factors that will influence the transition to Phase 6



Vaccine Trials

The States of Guernsey are watching and assessing the results of various candidate vaccine trials. We are ensuring that we are in a position to receive and administer a vaccine as soon as it is available. At this stage it is uncertain how many doses of vaccine will be required and how long the vaccine will provide an individual with protection from COVID-19.

If a vaccine becomes available towards the end of the year, it may be decided that opening up our borders to free travel with no requirements for self-isolation is delayed until the first phase of vaccinations has been delivered.

In the meantime, the necessary needles, syringes etc are being sourced to facilitate the delivery of a vaccine as soon as it is received on-island.