

21 October 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Measures to Tackle the Pandemic in Scotland

This note provides an update on the temporary restrictions that were introduced on 7 October, and on plans to replace those restrictions with a new levels based approach to control of the virus.

Temporary Measures

On [7 October](#) the First Minister announced that further, temporary restrictions would be introduced on a nationwide basis with other specific measures being introduced across the Central Belt¹ reflecting the higher rates of incidence and prevalence currently in that area in general. In addition, some existing rules and guidance were strengthened alongside wider measures to reduce transmission.

The temporary measures came into force on Friday 9 October and were planned to last until Sunday 25 October inclusive (the regulations currently expire at 6 am on 26 October). The First Minister indicated today that it has been judged that these measures are required for a short additional period, until a levels-based approach can be debated in Parliament and then implemented. Regulations will be brought forward tomorrow to extend the current regulations for a further seven days which will give them a new expiry date of 6 am on Monday 2 November.

Strategic Framework

The First Minister also set out today plans for the publication on Friday 23 October of a new Strategic Framework for control of the virus based on a “levels” approach. That Strategic Framework will be debated in Parliament next week.

We will keep the various restrictions in place under review, in light of the evolving status of the epidemic in Scotland.

Scottish Government

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¹ The Central Belt is for these purposes defined as covering the health board regions of Lothian, Lanarkshire, Forth Valley, Ayrshire & Arran and Greater Glasgow & Clyde – see end note for Local Authorities covered.