

# **COVID-19: A Framework for Decision Making**

## **Easy Read**

**May 2020**



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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# How will the Scottish Government make decisions about the Coronavirus outbreak?



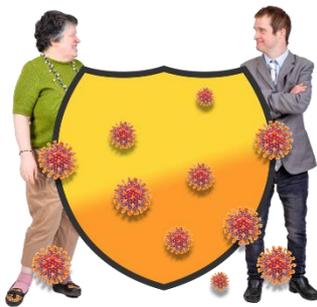


The Coronavirus outbreak is one of the most difficult things the world has had to cope with.

Everyone's life has changed.

It is a crisis – a dangerous and difficult time.

We must all work together to protect ourselves, our families, our communities and our country.



We may need to learn to live with this virus for some time.

We must find a way to get through this crisis and protect lives.



This document says how we will do that.



Everyone in Scotland can help.

## What we will do.



We will stop the spread of the virus by asking people to:

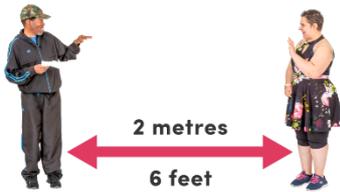
- Stay at home.
- Only go out to exercise once a day, buy food or to give support to a vulnerable person.
- Stay 2 metres away from other people if you go out.
- Wash your hands more often. Use soap and wash for 20 seconds each time.

This will help us to protect the National Health Service and care services so people who have coronavirus can be looked after.

We will care for those who need it, whether they are infected by the virus or not.



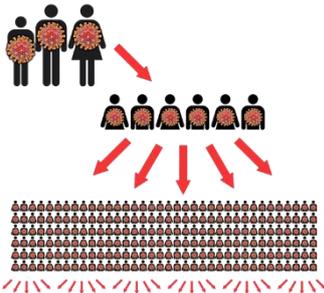
We will support people, business and organisations affected by the crisis.



A restriction is something that limits what you can do.

We will change the restrictions when it is safe.

We will keep restrictions in place if we have to.



We will make sure the virus does not spread.

Medicine and new technology will help us to do this.



We will protect people from the virus now and in the future.

This will be done by:

- testing people to see if they have the virus.
- contact tracing - a record of the people you have been around. If you get ill they can be told that you may have passed on the virus.





- and isolation – keeping people who have the virus away from other people.



We will help Scotland to change and grow.

# What we think is important and what we believe in.

**Our decisions will be:**

## **Safe**



We will make sure the spread of the virus is under control.

This will make sure the National Health Service and our care services are able to cope.

## **Lawful**



We will follow the law.

Any restrictions will be reasonable and fair.

## **Evidence-based**



We will use the best available information and data – facts and figures to make our decisions.

## **Fair & Ethical**



We will respect human rights.  
We will treat people equally and with dignity.



### **Clear**

We will give people clear information so they know what we are asking them to do.



### **Realistic**

We will do things that are possible and that will work.



### **Collective**

We will work together with our partners and stakeholders, including the UK Government and the devolved countries of Wales and Northern Ireland.



We will protect Scotland.

## How we will work.



- We will do what we believe is right and fair.
- We will listen to the best evidence.
- We will listen to the people of Scotland.

## Harms from coronavirus



The coronavirus outbreak is a health crisis.

It also causes harm to our communities and our economy.

We need to take difficult decisions to keep the amount of harm down.



The harms caused do not affect everyone in the same way.

We will protect those most at risk and protect human rights.

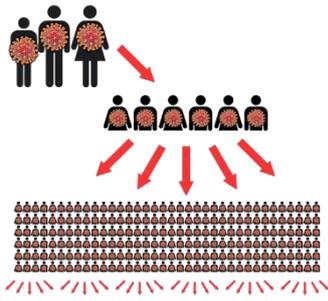
## How do we change?



We must follow the advice to stop the virus spreading.

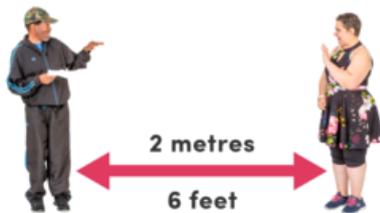
- stay at home if you have a cough, or a high temperature.
- stay 2 metres away from other people if you are outside.
- wash your hands more often - for 20 seconds each time.
- cover your mouth when you cough.
- Wear something over your nose and mouth if you are in a shop or on public transport.  
This can be a cloth face-covering like a scarf or bandanna.  
Do not use a medical facemask.





We must change the way we cope with coronavirus to stop it spreading in the community.

## How do we make decisions?



We want to return to our normal way of life, but we have to be prepared to have restrictions for a long time.

If restrictions are changed we will need everyone to keep physical distancing – staying 2 metres away from people outside your house.



We will be honest and clear about how we make decisions.



We will look at how all people are affected by what we decide.

## Having less restrictions or keeping them in place.



Experts tell us now is not the right time to ease restrictions. However when the time is right we will think carefully about changing any of the restrictions.

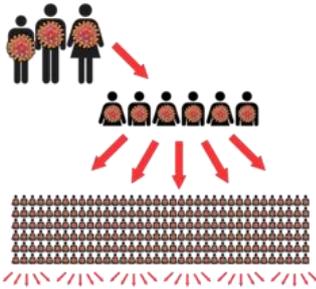
We will do it in stages.

We will do what is right for the people of Scotland.



We will change things as we learn more about this virus.

## How to control the virus outbreak.



We will use information to identify and track the spread of the virus.



We will change and use our health services to cope with the virus.



We will work with all parts of our communities including schools and businesses to find new ways of working to stop the spread of the virus.

## Changing to a new way of living with the virus.

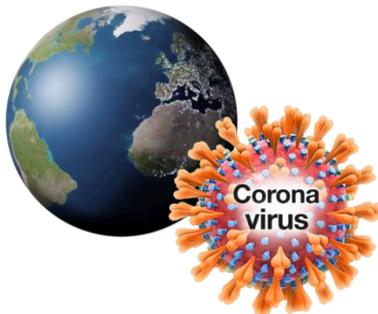


We will change and build Scotland's economy.

We will make sure everyone is treated equally and in a way that looks after their wellbeing – that they are safe, healthy and happy.



We will encourage communities to work together to support and help each other.



We will work with and learn from governments around the world and how they have coped with the virus.



We have seen an amazing response from the people of Scotland.

We have seen communities and businesses support each other.

Lots of people volunteered to help as part of the 'Scotland Cares' campaign.



We must support the people of Scotland to change the way they live and build a new future.

We must make sure people are treated equally and have the same chances and choices.



We must give people new skills because jobs will change.

We must help businesses change how they work.

Our public services will have to change to help people recover from the crisis.



When things come apart, we have a chance to put them back together in a different way.

We can all work together to decide the future of Scotland.



To tell us what you think of our plans, email:

[CovidExitStrategy@gov.scot](mailto:CovidExitStrategy@gov.scot)



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