

Covid-19 Safe Exit Framework: Update August 2020

Publication date: 8 August 2020

We are at Level 1 of the Safe Exit Framework

Jersey will enter Level 1 of the Safe Exit Framework from 00:01 on 8 August 2020.

Jersey is not yet free from the threat of Covid-19. In Level 1 our aim is to live safely with the virus.

Our priority now is to ensure that Islanders and businesses are following the public health guidelines that will keep us all safe while the virus is still spreading around the world.

The key measures going forward are therefore:

- A significant step up in adherence and enforcement of public health guidelines
- A parallel step up of communications and engagement on how to stay safe

On-island suppression of Covid-19 via compliance with public health guidance is a critical complement to the Government's 'contain' (test, trace, isolate) capacity.

There will be a small package of changes introduced on 8 August. However, Islanders should not assume any further relaxations following this point. As we are looking towards Autumn, on the understanding of Covid-19 at this time, the Government's Scientific and Technical Advisory Cell (STAC) has advised we cannot be certain that conditions will remain safe – and accordingly further relaxation of public health measures cannot be assumed.

Read this policy and follow the public health guidance on gov.je.

If at any time public health monitoring indicates a rapid increase in cases, or a pattern of cases that raises concern, the easing of measures may be suspended – or tighter restrictions could be re-imposed to protect Islanders' health.

The end of Level 1

We expect to be able to lift the Covid-19 pandemic public health measures at the point at which an effective vaccine is successfully deployed. Preparations are under way so that Government and the health system are ready to vaccinate the Island population at scale as soon as a viable vaccine becomes available. While international developments are moving at pace, there is however no certainty yet as to when an effective vaccine will be available.

Until then, the public health measures set out in this policy, underpinned by guidelines on gov.je, remain critical to keep us all safer together.

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Protecting yourself and others

The core public health guidelines that all Islanders should individually follow to suppress Covid-19 transmission are:

Safer hygiene

Everyone is strongly encouraged to continue to follow these simple steps:

- Wash your hands or use sanitising gel
- Avoid touching your face
- Catch your cough or sneeze in a tissue, bin it and wash your hands
- Clean surfaces and shared toilets regularly
- Cloth masks are strongly recommended in enclosed public spaces such as shops and on public transport

If you have flu-like symptoms, stay or go home immediately and call the Helpline on 01534 445566 for guidance on testing and – as needed – medical care and isolation.

Safer at a distance

Maintaining physical distance from others remains a key way to limit the spread Covid-19. Islanders should keep **a minimum of 1 metre physical distance, and more wherever practical**, from people you don't live with.

Safer in small groups

While Covid-19 is still with us, you should continue keeping a smaller social circle than usual. Where possible, you are encouraged to continue to work from home some or all of the time, but it may not be the default way of working in your organisation.

Social gatherings, especially those in private settings, such as parties, barbecues or informal get-togethers should be limited to a maximum of 20 people. These gatherings should only occur if you are confident everyone will maintain physical distancing with those they don't live with. If you are holding a small social gathering, you should keep a guestlist of attendees, including table plans. This will be critical to support contact tracing if it is later discovered that one of the attendees had COVID-19. You should also be particularly careful to adhere to all relevant public health guidance if your attendees include people who may be at higher risk of illness from COVID-19.

More controlled events are subject to the limits, guidance and review process set out under '*larger gatherings*' later in this policy statement.

Limit your physical contact too. Islanders are advised that some physical contact, limited to a few others you don't live with, is proportionately safe. This may be a family having physical contact with grandparents, or it may be a couple who live apart spending nights together. The exact number will depend on your personal circumstances, but should be a much smaller group than those you socialise with at a safe physical distance (also still limited to a smaller network than usual).

The people you choose to have physical contact with should remain consistent.

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People at higher risk of illness from Covid-19 are especially advised to keep the number of people they have physical contact with low, or may prefer to avoid physical contact with people they don't live with completely. If you choose to increase your physical contact, the smaller and more consistent the group, the lower the risk.

Safer outside

The risk of transmitting Covid-19 is greater indoors and especially over longer periods of time. There is also more room to physically distance outside. So, if you meet people or organise a gathering or an event, you should do it outdoors where possible.

Generally, it remains better to limit the number of people visiting inside your own home, and limit visiting others' homes.

Safer when you can be contacted

While Covid-19 is still with us, we can all live more safely together if contact tracing is as effective as it can possibly be. Our contact tracing team has been up and running since the very start of the pandemic and is providing a vital service. We need to help them work as quickly as possible to identify who might be at risk when new cases arise.

For Islanders, this means providing your contact details when requested by a business for the purpose of contact tracing (such as in a restaurant or pub, by the hairdresser), so that if it turns out someone else who was near you in the same place has Covid-19, you can be reached quickly to assess whether you were at risk or not, and to offer you support if needed.

For businesses, you are asked to collect people's contact details wherever practicable for the purpose of contact tracing, in accordance with the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018 (see below).

People at risk of illness from Covid-19

For people with certain conditions, and for older people, there are additional risks if you become infected with Covid-19. While the number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 remains very low, as activity further resumes across the island there may be an increase in transmission. We also now know that Covid-19 will be with us for many months, and people's wellbeing is likely to deteriorate if they feel stuck at home for too long.

Islanders at higher risk of illness from Covid-19 are those that have conditions identified in the categories of high risk (severely vulnerable) and moderate risk (vulnerable). These can be found on www.gov.je/shielding.

Everyone in these categories will be at a different level of risk according to their condition and circumstances, and will need to continue to consider the balance of risk that is right for them. As in Level 2, people who are at higher risk of Covid-19 illness are encouraged to balance the risk of exposure to infection with the negative wellbeing impacts that prolonged social isolation at home may have on their mental health, mobility and general fitness.

This means safely enjoying both indoor and outdoor activities, provided you are not unwell because of your condition. Islanders at moderate risk should be confident to go about your daily routine as long as you do so safely by carefully following public health guidance. Islanders at high risk should also continue to resume more activities, but make sure to follow public health guidance rigorously, carefully balancing your wellbeing with the need to be

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cautious and reduce their risk of infection. An activity risk guide sets out information on which activities, or features of activity, increases or reduces risk, and is available on gov.je.

People at risk of illness from Covid-19 and workplaces

People at moderate risk should be confident to return to most workplaces, as many have already done. Employees and employers are encouraged to discuss how to enable those at moderate risk of illness from Covid-19 to resume work confidently - including discussing additional mitigations where needed and possible, or enabling them to continue to work from home.

People in the high-risk category who are fit and healthy continue to be encouraged to take a risk-informed decision on whether to return to a workplace based on their particular circumstances. Again, employees and employers are encouraged to discuss how to enable those at high-risk of illness from Covid-19 might resume work confidently, recognising that this small group of people are most in need of additional protections. For example, Islanders at high-risk may choose to explore options of changing their working pattern or role with their employer, for example if their work requires them to interact with many people where physical distancing is not possible.

Islanders who are concerned that they cannot return to work safely, owing to their individual circumstances or medical condition, are advised to contact their GP or medical consultant for advice. It is expected that some Islanders at high risk will not return to their workplaces, and should not be forced to do so. Public health advice to help you take informed decisions as evidence on Covid-19 evolves is available and regularly updated on gov.je/shielding.

Children and young people at higher risk

Children and young people who are at higher risk of illness from Covid-19 are encouraged to attend school. Children and parents who feel that it is not safe to return to school, owing to a child or young person's particular circumstances or medical condition, are advised to contact their child's specialist doctor to discuss their situation where they have not yet done so. If it's decided, following discussion between the doctor, child and parents or guardian, that the risk of returning to school outweighs the benefits, then the child is not expected to return. Higher risk children should be cautious to follow physical distancing and other public health guidance and advice while they are at school, where they are able to understand and follow this.

Coping during the pandemic

The fact that cases of Covid-19 in Jersey remain low should reassure Islanders. Nonetheless, the virus has not gone away and for some this will remain a concerning time. There is a huge amount of support available, provided by volunteers, charities, our Parishes, and specialist professionals. We warmly encourage you to access it. Please call the helpline on 01534 445566, or find more information on www.gov.je/connectme.

Education and childcare

Jersey's schools have re-opened in a phased and controlled process from 8 June, with specific public health measures in place. Information on the phases of reopening and the measures being taken to keep children, teachers and other staff safe can be found on gov.je.

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The Government's aim is for all children and young people to return to full-time education in September, as long as conditions remain safe to do so. Information and guidance on schools opening can be found on gov.je. Updates will be published and also provided by schools to families as required.

Guidelines are also available on gov.je for nurseries, childminders, nannies, youth clubs and summer clubs.

Travel

All forms of on-island transport (buses and taxis) are permitted. You are no longer discouraged from taking public transport or from ride sharing in private vehicles with people you don't live with.

Public buses may operate with all seats filled if needed, but additional capacity should be made available wherever possible. Because the use of all seats may compromise the recommended 1 metre physical distance between people who don't live together, cloth face masks are strongly recommended at all times. Good ventilation and hygiene standards must also be maintained to further mitigate risk of transmission. Hand sanitiser should be available and prominent on public transport.

Detailed guidance is also provided for private bus, coach, minibus, and limousine services.

Commercial passenger services on and off-island began to return in July. The robust public health 'contain' strategy to monitor, mitigate and manage the risk of seeding of Covid-19 via inbound travel into Jersey is set out in the Covid-19 Safer Travel Policy. Further details can be found on gov.je.

Work and business

Our priority now is to ensure that Islanders and businesses are following the public health guidelines that will keep us all safe while the virus is still spreading around the world.

Businesses are strongly encouraged to review and apply all policy measures set out here, and supporting guidance on gov.je, that is relevant to their activities.

You should expect to see an increase in activity to support you to comply with the public health guidance, and as set out later in this document, enforcement action will increase if necessary.

Key public health measures for all businesses

Every business or organisation opening during the Covid-19 pandemic should plan in advance how they are going to reduce the risk of spreading the virus during the course of operating, when you open and when you plan to make any changes to the public health measures in place.

These risk assessments should respond to the public health guidelines for all business and relevant sector-specific guidelines set out on gov.je, and address how you will continue to meet the obligations set out in the Health and Safety at Work (Jersey) Law 1989.

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The key Covid-19 public health guidance for all businesses includes:

- Supporting staff to follow the advice on protecting yourself and others
- Enabling regular hand washing
- Ensuring physical distancing wherever possible
- Cleaning premises and equipment
- Developing a plan should anyone develop Covid-19 symptoms
- Considering how to support any staff at higher risk of illness from Covid-19
- Supporting contact tracing, as set out in this policy
- Limiting gatherings, as set out in this policy

Additional public health guidelines are provided on gov.je for specific sectors and activities.

Supporting contact tracing

A key pillar of Jersey’s Covid-19 Strategy is to be pro-active and agile in finding people that are infectious and ensure they isolate quickly, to suppress the rate at which Covid-19 spreads. Businesses and organisations involved in activities with a higher transmission risk are required, wherever practicable, to keep a record of attendance, including requesting the contact details of customers/guests. Even where this may be a new process for your business, you are asked to introduce it.

The more effective our contact tracing can be in Jersey, there is less risk that we will need to re-introduce more restrictive public health measures, whether for a specific premises or business, or for the whole island. The Government recognises that businesses need to meet their obligations under the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018 when they process personal information for these purposes. Detailed guidance on how to collect and store contact information appropriately is available on gov.je.

Supporting your workforce

As business activity further resumes, employers are encouraged to continue to be flexible in recognition of the risks and constraints the pandemic is imposing on workers and their families. Whenever you plan changes for your workplace(s), consider if any of your staff are at higher risk, and how you can help them to return to work with additional mitigation in place where needed and possible, or to continue to work from home.

A careful increase of business activity in workplaces

Businesses and organisations already able to open may return more employees to the workplace, while keeping staff and visitors safe by strictly enforcing 1 metre or more physical distancing wherever possible and implementing all relevant hygiene measures, paying regard to sector-specific guidance.

From 8 August, working from home is no longer advised as the *default* operating model, owing to the low level of prevailing risk. However, enabling the continuation of work from home will help reduce the number of people on business premises at any one time – making physical distancing easier to achieve. Businesses are therefore encouraged to continue to support staff to work from home, and flexibly, wherever that is achievable.

Ongoing restrictions on business activity

The vast majority of business activity and premises may now be open and operate, within public health guidelines. The key ongoing restrictions are:

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- (1) Venues and activities where maintaining public health measures, especially 1 metre or more physical distance, is likely to be impossible must be avoided. This means
- Standing service (e.g., in pubs and bars) remains prohibited
 - Designated nightclubs may not open as usual
 - Live music is permitted within strict guidelines including a low noise level only, where audiences are seated and able to have a normal conversation; all music is safer outdoors
 - Larger scale events over 40 people remain prohibited, except for funeral services - see 'larger gatherings' below
 - Flying tuition & skydiving remain strongly discouraged
- (2) Shared use children's indoor soft play facilities must remain closed, as maintaining good hygiene is likely to be impossible. All other facilities should follow hygiene guidelines strictly.
- (3) High intensity exercise indoors remains prohibited, owing to the increased transmission risk associated with heavy and/or rapid breathing leading to expelling more respiratory droplets, further, in a confined shared space, and the practical difficulties of people conforming to potential mitigations such as safe distancing of over 3 metres, or wearing cloth face masks during exercise.

Summary of limited changes for business

The small package of changes from the Level 2 Safe Exit Policy for business are as shown below. Relevant businesses must plan and prepare for these changes carefully. Note that many of these changes sit within existing guidance which should be applied in its entirety:

- All businesses permitted to bring more staff onto premises, within guidance
- All close personal contact services and treatments permitted – to include close work on or around the face, where hygiene and sanitising guidelines are strictly followed
- Updated guidelines on gov.je permitting some small technical relaxations for
 - Dentists & allied healthcare – updated guidelines
 - Retail – updated guidelines on clothing fallow period
 - Private buses - updated guidelines
 - Estate agents – open viewings permitted, within guidelines

Health and Community Services' non-Covid-19 clinics and services will continue their careful process of re-opening into Level 1.

Work in private homes

Work requiring entry to an occupied private household remains possible, provided that neither the service provider or any member of the household present feels unwell and has no symptoms. Public health guidelines, including maintaining a safe distance from any household occupants, should be followed to ensure everyone's safety.

Those providing services in private homes should continue to maintain physical distancing wherever possible and hygiene, and pay regard to sector-specific guidance. For example, the public health guidelines for close personal contact services (such as hair and beauty services) apply wherever the service is provided; guidance for other service providers that regularly enter private homes, such as estate and rentals agents, cleaners, nannies and childminders, is also provided on gov.je and should be followed.

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No work should be carried out in any household that is isolating unless it is to remedy a direct risk to the safety of the household, such as emergency plumbing or repairs, and where the tradesperson is willing to do so. The isolated person should occupy a different room whilst the work is being carried out, if at all possible. For further information, please see the detailed guidance for business on gov.je.

Work in vehicles

The risk of transmitting Covid-19 is highest when spending prolonged periods of time in enclosed spaces with limited air circulation. People working in vehicles are therefore strongly encouraged to follow the published public health guidelines, which include ensuring good ventilation, the wearing of cloth face masks, and regular cleaning of all major touch points.

Large gatherings (including public events)

Large gatherings have been a significant catalyst of transmission of Covid-19 internationally. A cautious approach to events and gatherings is therefore appropriate.

All larger gatherings (including public events, marriage ceremonies, organised sports, community and group activities and similar) therefore remain limited to a maximum of **40** people. All larger gatherings must be controlled, having a designated lead organiser, and fully meeting the guidelines on '*gatherings and events*' on gov.je.

An exception to this limit has been made for funeral services. Funeral services may take place with up to a maximum of 80 people, under the same guidelines. Organisers should be mindful of the potential additional risk of bigger gatherings and follow public health guidelines assiduously.

As above, smaller gatherings, including those in private settings, continue to be limited to a maximum of 20 people.

Sports and performing arts venues

Established performing arts venues (theatres, cinemas, concert halls) and sports venues providing for seated audiences should apply the same limits as for large gatherings.

The Government will continue to work with the Island's key performing arts and sports venues to develop individually tailored safe opening plans in line with public health guidance, for the Autumn (October onwards). Where appropriate, 1 or 2 limited and controlled 'pilot' events may also be approved as part of that preparation to open safely.

Singing and live music

Singing and the use of wind and brass instruments present a high Covid-19 risk because infectious respiratory droplets can be sprayed or propelled further. Accordingly, across all business, social and community contexts, singing, in addition to woodwind and brass music, is very strongly discouraged both outdoors and indoors. This is particularly important in indoor settings and around members of the public who may be at higher risk of illness from Covid-19.

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Venues are advised to only play low volume ambient background music on their premises to avoid people leaning into one other when talking. One-to-one singing, woodwind and brass lessons should also not happen in person at this time, with video-conferencing encouraged as an alternative.

Containing the pandemic

Containing the spread of Covid-19

Our contain capacity – test, trace, and isolate – is our first response capacity when possible new cases of Covid-19 are identified. We have invested significant resources to ensure our contain capacity can be pro-active and agile, to find people that are infectious and ensure they isolate quickly, and so keep the level of cases to a very low level. We are now testing hundreds of people every day, and our expanded contact tracing team is responding in detail to every positive case.

Throughout the levels of the Safe Exit Framework, we will continue to focus on:

- Testing, contact tracing, and isolating confirmed and suspected cases of Covid-19
- Preventing individual cases becoming clusters – particularly in institutional settings such as care homes, and
- Responding quickly to stop any early clusters from becoming outbreaks.

Further details are available in the Covid-19 Strategy and on the ‘testing and tracing’ webpages on gov.je.

Safer together: enforcement

We must all adapt our ways of living and working to follow this policy and underpinning public health guidance, so that we can continue to live safely with the virus. Doing so is a critical complement to our ‘contain’ capacity. The Government will use its powers to enforce public health measures if it proves necessary to do so.

- If you are required to self-isolate on arrival into Jersey, or you are instructed to remain in self-isolation because you have a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19 and fail to do so without reasonable excuse, you may be arrested and fined up to £1,000. You may also be taken to a screening facility and required to take a Covid-19 test, and you may be kept there until the results are known. The penalty for refusing to go to the screening facility or failing to provide medical samples or information without reasonable excuse in that situation is a fine of up to £10,000. We hope this power never needs to be used.
- Businesses and organisations must comply with all relevant guidelines and regulations, and should always err on the side of caution. Spot checks will take place to ensure businesses and organisations apply public health guidelines appropriately, providing constructive advice in the first instance.

If you have concerns about non-compliance with any public health measures, please contact: workplacecovid@gov.je.

Re-tightening public health measures

Should there be an increase in cases or a cluster of cases that is not fully contained via our test, trace and isolate activity, some additional public health measures may be needed. We

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will not re-introduce any restriction lightly - but we will act swiftly and in a targeted way with the clear aim to avoid the need to return to island-wide lockdown if at all possible.

Our response will be tailored to the situation faced. However, at this stage, Islanders and businesses should be aware that in order to counter any surge in cases, the Government response may need to include measures such as closing a premises for a short period, reinforcing physical distancing and hygiene requirements, increasing quarantine or testing requirements for those who may be affected, or asking Islanders to reduce social contact again to suppress spread.

If any additional measures are required following advice from medical officers, the public will be immediately and fully informed.

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Annex 1: Businesses and premises that may now open and those that must remain closed

Unless specified in this section, businesses and organisations may open and should strictly observe all public health guidance and sector-specific regulations on physical distancing and hygiene. Spot checks will take place to ensure businesses and organisations are complying with these requirements.

Only those businesses or venues which available international evidence suggests present a particular risk must remain fully closed. Changes from Level 2 are highlighted.

Food and drink

Standing service continues to be prohibited. Venues unable to offer a seated service and follow guidelines on distancing and hygiene must remain closed.

Designated nightclubs must remain closed. Where a holder of a seventh category licence also holds any other category licence they may trade under those categories, but not under the seventh category, with the exemption of seventh (a) cinemas and theatres.

Indoor assembly and leisure

All shared use showers, and changing facilities, associated with sports and leisure venues may now be opened. Shared use jacuzzis, plunge pools, steam rooms, saunas, Turkish baths must remain closed.

Children's indoor soft play areas should remain closed owing to the difficulties in maintaining hygiene.

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