

# COVID-19 Safe Exit Framework: Level 2 Policy

Publication date: 12 June 2020 (version 1.1)

## Version 1.2 updated 26 June 2020: Summary of updates

- Following advice from the Medical Officer for Health confirming it was safe to do so:
  - The Minister for Health and Social Services suspended the Safe Distancing Regulations at the 14-day renewal point (25 June).  
  
Islanders were now encouraged to keep a minimum of 1 metre physical distance, and more wherever practical, from people they don't live with.
  - The Minister for Health and Social Services and the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and culture suspended the COVID-19 (Construction Work) (Jersey) Order 2020 meaning it is no longer a requirement to obtain a permit to carry out construction activity
- In line with the move from 2 to 1 metre recommended physical distancing, restaurants and cafés were:
  - allowed to serve multiple household groups/individuals at a single table, providing the 1 metre distance is observed between them; and
  - the public health guideline on the closing time for restaurants and cafés of 10:45pm will be lifted, returning to the normal licensing regime.
- Islanders were further advised that they can begin limited, physical contact with a small number of people from outside of their household.

## We are at Level 2 of the Safe Exit Framework

Jersey will enter Level 2 of the Safe Exit Framework from 00:01 on Friday 12 June 2020.

The aim of the Safe Exit Framework is to ease restrictions as quickly as possible, while avoiding a sudden and rapid increase in infections and minimising other indirect health, social and economic impacts.

Level 2 is about being safer together as we move towards a 'new normal' of living with COVID-19. Together, we must achieve a balance of becoming more social, gathering a little more, opening activities, and beginning some connectivity off-island without triggering an upsurge of infections.

Read this policy and follow the public health guidance on gov.je. Anyone can catch COVID-19 and anyone can spread it. We reduce the risk of doing this by remembering the measures below:

- **Safer hygiene**

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- **Safer at a distance**
- **Safer in smaller groups**
- **Safer outside**

## **Making the move from Level 3 to Level 2: Safer together**

Ministers are committed to removing restrictions as early as it is safe to do.

Analysis shows that Level 3 measures have not resulted in a significant increase in cases. In the week beginning 8 June, case numbers remain very low and medical advice has confirmed that the conditions are safe to proceed to further easing of restrictions. Accordingly, we can move carefully and deliberately to Level 2. Not all Level 2 measures will be introduced at the same time.

Throughout Level 2, the impact of the easing of restrictions on the spread of COVID-19 will continue to be closely monitored and the pace at which new measures are introduced will be informed by medical assessment of the potential risks.

**If at any time public health monitoring indicates a rapid increase in cases, especially cases requiring hospital care, the easing of measures may be suspended – or if absolutely necessary, previous restrictions could be re-imposed.**

No one wants to return to Level 4. Further lockdown will impact people's wellbeing, their livelihoods, and the culture of Jersey. A phased relaxation of such measures is better than a rapid return to stricter lockdown.

## **Core public health measures**

### **Safer hygiene**

Everyone is strongly encouraged to continue to strictly 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.

### **Safer at a distance**

There is no time limit on how long you can spend outside your home.

**[Updated 26 June]: Maintaining physical distance from others remains a key way to limit the spread COVID-19.**

**Islanders are now encouraged to keep a minimum of 1 metre physical distance, and more wherever practical, from people you don't live with.**

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The move from 2 metres to a minimum of 1 metre physical distance is possible owing to the continued low rate of active COVID-19 cases on-island, which reduces the probability of transmission.

Limit your physical contact: As people increase their much-needed social contact in Level 2, some will wish to begin physical contact. Any increase in physical contact increases risk of exposure to COVID-19. However, research shows that when people limit physical contact to a small number, the risk of contracting COVID-19 is significantly reduced.

From 26th June, and provided the very low rate of active COVID-19 cases in Jersey continues, Islanders are advised that some physical contact, limited to a few others you don't live with, is now 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 small network than usual).

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

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. To further manage the risk, have a conversation together about the distancing and hygiene behaviours you expect of each other too.

### **Safer in small groups**

During Level 2, you should continue keeping a smaller social circle than usual to help suppress a possible outbreak of COVID-19. You are encouraged to work from home where possible.

- Social gatherings, especially those in private settings, such as parties, barbecues or informal get-togethers should be limited to a maximum of 20 people in Level 2. These gatherings should only occur if you are confident everyone will maintain physical distancing.
- More controlled events such as marriage and funeral ceremonies, organised sports, community and group activities should be limited to a maximum of 40 people in Level 2. These will be subject to separate guidance, including maintaining safe distancing.

If you are holding a gathering or an event, you should keep a guestlist of attendees. 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 risk of complications from COVID-19.

Please read and follow the guidelines for 'social events and gatherings' and 'sport and recreation' on gov.je.

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## 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.

You should also continue to think carefully about whether to allow small numbers of people inside your own home, and whether to enter others' homes. Parties and gatherings inside in particular remain a risk.

## People at risk of illness from COVID-19

For people with certain medical 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 is currently very low, as activity 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.

People who are at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness are encouraged to think about how to balance potential exposure to infection, with the negative wellbeing impacts that prolonged social isolation at home may have on their mental health, mobility and general fitness.

The conditions identified in the categories of high risk (severely vulnerable) and moderate risk (vulnerable) can be found on gov.je. Everyone in these categories will be at a different level of risk according to their condition and circumstances, and will need to decide the balance of risk that is right for them. Broadly, people who are at high risk are encouraged to continue to be especially cautious; people who are at moderate risk may consider returning to their workplace if agreed with the employer that this can be done safely.

Deciding how to live with the risk of COVID-19 when you are at increased risk is not easy. Islanders in doubt about their individual situation should seek advice from their doctor or another health professional. Further public health advice to help you take informed decisions as evidence on COVID-19 evolves, will be issued soon.

## Education and childcare

The advice from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Cell (STAC) and the Medical Officer for Health is that it is safe to start re-opening schools, within guidelines.

Expert medical review has concluded that there is growing evidence that children are not so-called 'super spreaders' and that risk from transmission of children is low. Latest evidence indicates that the re-opening of schools does *not* lead to an increase in overall infection rates. On the other hand, the health, welfare and education of children and young people are significantly harmed by a continued absence from education. On this basis, medical advisors have recommended that a 2-metre physical distance and a 20-person limit do not need to be enforced in a school environment.

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Jersey's schools are re-opening in a phased and controlled process from 8 June, with detailed 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. Nurseries, childminders and nannies will also be able to begin working again, in accordance with public health guidelines.

Separately, following the end of the 'stay at home' instruction, children who need to move between the care of different guardians or separated parents can continue to do so. Further guidance for parents and carers is available on gov.je.

## **Coping during the pandemic**

This remains a concerning time and it may trigger or exacerbate emotional and practical issues.

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 gov.je.

Day to day, the advice continues to be not to panic, to maintain good hygiene in your home, and if anyone you live with develops flu-like symptoms, call the helpdesk and follow the published household isolation advice.

## **Travel**

All forms of on-island transport (buses and taxis) are permitted, with strict physical distancing, ventilation and hygiene standards maintained. Hand sanitiser should be available and prominent on public transport. You are discouraged from ride sharing in private vehicles with people you don't live with.

Travel on and off-island is currently limited to necessary travel. A COVID-19 border testing trial is currently underway at Jersey airport. This provides passengers on the government's 'lifeline' flights, operated by Blue Islands, the option of being tested upon arrival into Jersey, or to self-isolate for 14 days. The trial will be evaluated by Ministers and the Government's medical advisors. If successful and safe, proportionate at-border testing will begin to be offered as an alternative to 14 days self-isolation.

During Level 2, it is possible that air and sea operators may begin to return to some level of commercial passenger services, dependent on demand and economic viability. An updated public health border scheme will be published to replace the necessary travel scheme in advance. Given the potential risk of importing COVID-19, maintaining strict public health measures at our borders will continue to be a priority.

Information leaflets detailing travel and isolation policy requirements are provided to all new arrivals at all entry ports, and further details on the necessary travel scheme and isolation requirements for arrivals into Jersey can be found on gov.je.

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## **Work and business**

In Level 4, businesses and organisations undertaking work essential to the running of the island were permitting to operate at minimum staffing levels and within strict public health guidelines.

In Level 3, non-essential business began to reopen in a careful and staged way – beginning with outdoor services and facilities, and then extending to retail and indoor workplaces while limiting staff numbers on site to those indispensable to business functioning.

In Level 2, the aim is to progress further in a safe, managed way towards a ‘new normal’ for business. Businesses should continue to enable working from home as the default operating model wherever that is possible, but increased business activity in workplaces will be possible, within strict guidelines.

As business activity resumes, in careful stages, employers are also strongly encouraged to be flexible in recognition of the risks and constraints the pandemic is imposing on workers and their families:

- Consider if any of your staff are at high or moderate risk, or live with someone who is at high risk, and how you can help them to return to work with additional mitigation in place where needed and possible.
- An individual whose age or condition places them at moderate risk, and who wishes to return to work, is encouraged to seek medical advice if there is uncertainty as to how to return to work safely
- If a member of staff has a condition that puts them in the high risk category, they should not be required to return to work
- Try to enable staff who care for children to stay at home while schools and nurseries are closed for those children.

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 asked, where practicable, to keep a record of attendance, including requesting the contact details of customers/guests. This may mean introducing a new process where previously people have not been asked to share their contact details, where proportionate and practical to do so. The Government recognises that businesses will need to ensure they comply with their obligations under the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018 when they process personal information for these purposes. Further guidance is available on gov.je.

From Level 2, there is no longer a distinction in our public health guidance for essential and non-essential work. An essential and critical worker list will however continue to be used with regard to education until the point at which schools are fully reopened.

### **A careful increase of business activity in workplaces**

Businesses and organisations already able to open may return more employees to the workplace, within the requirements of strict physical distancing and hygiene, and paying regard to sector-specific guidance. This means you may increase the number of employees beyond the number considered essential to business functioning, as was required in Level 3.

Depending upon the numbers involved, any increase in staff numbers in a workplace may need to be done in phases. If you have already undertaken a risk assessment for Level 3,

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this needs to be updated at Level 2 if you are intending to increase staff numbers and activity.

However, at this stage of the pandemic, businesses are still strongly advised to allow **working from home as a default** where it is possible to do so.

## Businesses that can open in Level 2

The following business activity will now also be permitted in Level 2:

**Food and drink businesses** may now provide physically-distanced **indoor** as well as outdoor seated food service, within guidelines (extending the principles of the guidelines established in Level 3). Drinks-only services and standing service remain prohibited, and therefore pubs and nightclubs remain closed.

**Leisure venues** such as museums, galleries and indoor heritage sites; cinemas, theatres and concert venues; arcades, bowling alleys and similar can all choose to open in Level 2, subject to compliance with public health guidelines.

**Non-residential institutions** – libraries, community centres, youth centres, places of worship and similar – may now choose to open, within guidelines. Parish halls have been able to open throughout lockdown for the purpose of coordinating and hosting essential voluntary or public services; they may also now open for all other activities.

**Hotels**, hostels, B&Bs, campsites, boarding houses and self-catering vacation accommodation will be permitted to open during Level 2, to meet the demand for staycations by Islanders. These businesses are encouraged to continue to provide interim accommodation as needed too - for example for key workers and non-UK residents unable to travel to their country of residence, for essential workers, and for vulnerable people who cannot safely stay in their home. Tailored guidelines for hotels are available on gov.je.

**Services that involve close personal contact** may begin to open where they are able to follow strict sector-specific guidelines (e.g., hairdressers, barbers, beauty and nail salons, including piercing and tattoo parlours, laser and cosmetic clinics). At Level 2, treatments that require prolonged close proximity to a customer’s face – a situation where respiratory droplets can easily pass between people – remain strongly discouraged owing to the risk involved.

**Sports and fitness** providers may open, within guidelines. Indoor dry facilities should be well ventilated and used for low intensity activities owing to the risk of respiratory and sweat droplets spreading between even well-spaced participants; higher intensity sports and fitness activities can be held outdoors, maintaining safe distance and following relevant guidelines. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools may open. Sports and swimming pool changing and shower facilities are however also a higher risk environment and should remain closed: Islanders are asked to ‘play/swim and go’.

**All outdoor recreation** may now open, subject to published guidelines including ensuring cleaning between uses. (Public playgrounds, paddling pools, outdoor gyms and similar may also open with Islanders advised to clean equipment before and after use).

In **healthcare**, the following businesses are permitted to open, within sector specific guidelines, which also request that priority continues to be given to those most in need:

- Regulated allied healthcare (such as chiropractors, dieticians, physiotherapists)

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- Dental practices
- Community counselling and mental health services

In parallel, Health and Community Services' non-COVID-19 clinics and services will begin a careful process of re-opening in Level 2. More detail will be published on gov.je soon.

## Work conducted outdoors

Work conducted outdoors (e.g., gardening, window cleaning, pool cleaning) continues to be permitted. You should enforce strict physical distancing wherever possible – travelling to and from the place of work, as well as during the course of the work. You are strongly advised to continue to operate in small groups, to minimise the risk of compromising each other's safe distance.

**[Updated 26 June]: the COVID-19 (Construction Work) (Jersey) Order 2020 no longer applies. This means that construction activity no longer requires a permit, but businesses should continue to follow all relevant public health guidance on gov.je.**

## Work in private homes

In Level 2, work requiring entry to an occupied private household is possible under strict guidelines.

This includes business activities such as home and building maintenance and improvement works by decorators, carpet and kitchen fitters, plumbers, electricians, roofers, scaffolders and other tradespeople. This work can be done inside people's homes, provided that the tradesperson feels well and has no symptoms. Public health guidelines, including maintaining a safe distance from any household occupants, should be followed to ensure everyone's safety.

Other services provided in private homes may also resume, within the requirements of strict physical distancing and hygiene, and paying 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.

No work should be carried out in any household that is isolating or where an individual is at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19, 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.

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## **Safer together: Enforcement**

Islanders' willingness to change their behaviours and to limit social contact to date have successfully prevented a spike in cases of COVID-19. Our continuing success in suppressing cases to very low numbers depends on each and every Islander continuing to play their part. The risk of infection remains real. The pandemic is not over.

As a last resort, if you are required to self-isolate and fail to do so, you may be arrested and fined, or required to be screened for Covid-19.

Businesses and organisations must continue to comply with all relevant regulations. Compliance spot checks will take place to ensure businesses and organisations apply public health guidelines appropriately, providing constructive advice in the first instance.

## **Containing the spread of COVID-19**

As social contact increases, there is a risk of an increase in transmission of COVID-19. A key pillar of our strategy is to be pro-active and agile, to find people that are infectious and ensure they isolate quickly, to suppress the rate at which COVID-19 spreads 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.

## **Annex 1: Businesses and premises that can remain open and those that must remain closed**

At Level 2, 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. As above, compliance spot checks will take place to ensure businesses and organisations are complying with these requirements.

The businesses and premises listed below must remain closed. If a sector or business is not listed, it may open fully within all relevant guidelines.

### **Food and drink**

Drinks only service and standing service continues to be prohibited. Venues offering these services such as pubs, bars and nightclubs must remain closed. (Food and drink venues offering indoor or outdoor seated food service *may* open within guidelines).

**[Updated 26 June]: From 1 July, alcohol-only seated service in licensed venues is anticipated to be permitted, within published guidelines. Venues unable to offer seated service only, such as nightclubs, will need to remain closed.**

### **Indoor assembly and leisure**

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All shared use showers, and changing facilities, associated with sports and leisure venues should remain closed.

Children's indoor play areas, such as soft play centres, should also remain closed owing to the difficulties in maintaining hygiene and physical distancing.

## Construction

[Updated 26 June]: the COVID-19 (Construction Work) (Jersey) Order 2020 has been allowed to lapse. This means that construction activity no longer requires a permit, but businesses should continue to follow all relevant public health guidance on gov.je.

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