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Bailiwick Takes Cautious Steps Towards The 'New Normal'

Alderney has cautiously peeped over the parapet with new freedoms announced in the latest phase of easing lockdown restrictions.

Restaurants, pubs and cafés were welcoming back their customers after weeks of closed doors and shops were lifting their shutters this week – all with the caveat of well thought out social distancing rules.

Businesses across the island are breathing a sigh of relief as they return to work and students pack their satchels ready for a return to school.

Phase Four came earlier than expected as there have been no confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Bailiwick for more than a month, but caution still prevails as we mourn the 13 deaths to the disease and three 'presumptive' deaths.

Alderney has not had any Covid-19 positive tests at the time of going to press.

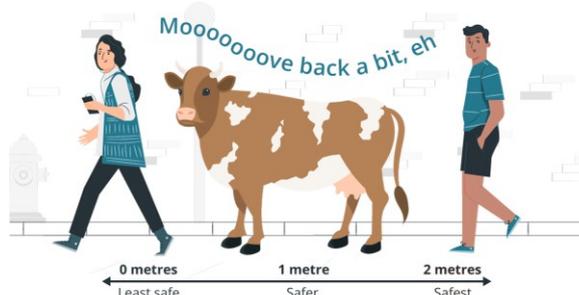
Now we can begin to explore what the New Normal might look like, but we must remain cautious.

Wearing a rainbow tie, Guernsey's lead politician Gavin St Pier said: "Lockdown has changed and got easier but categorically it is not over.

"Remember, the number of new cases in England alone is running at 52,000 a week. That would be the equivalent to about 60 a week here. If we were running at that level, there is not a cat in hell's chance we'd be close to Phase 4."

That means even with non-essential travel now permitted, everyone arriving in the Bailiwick must adhere strictly to 14-day self-isolation. Any breach of this rule is an arrestable offence and could incur a fine of up to £10,000.

The team supporting people in quarantine will be increasing contact with those in self-isolation, including random home visits and spot-checks, including on Alderney.



The Guernsey measurement for social distancing is one cow. Here in Alderney it has been suggested (and broadcast on QuayFM with a smile) that it should be 10 blonde hedgehogs!



EXIT FROM LOCKDOWN

New Rules To Help Track & Trace

There are now two separate sets of rules for social distancing. In allowing a number of businesses to open, Health and Social Care has made a distinction between 'controlled' and 'uncontrolled' environments.

In a controlled environment, for example a restaurant with tables spaced one metre apart, the proprietor will know the identity of each customer and the table at which they were sitting.

The system helps the track and trace team to swiftly find anyone who might have been in contact with someone testing positive for the virus.

Controlled environments include pubs, cafés and restaurants as well as organised events where complying businesses can implement reduced one metre social distancing. They must also keep the contact details of each customer or participant as well as staff members and provide these to controlledbusinessnotification@gov.gg.

Other controlled environments include workplaces, churches, clubs and recreation and sports teams.

Uncontrolled environments include shops and outdoor spaces where the two metre social distancing rule continues to apply but records do not have to be kept.



Bon Appetit! Alderney's Superb Cuisine Is Back

Restaurants, hotels and pubs serving food can now reopen but they are subject to strict rules as 'controlled environments':

- They can only operate a table service and these must be a metre apart and if possible people sitting at the same table should be a metre apart
- Customers are not permitted to approach the bar
- All fresco dining is encouraged with the same social distancing rules
- A record must be kept of the contact details for all customers, together with a record of their table number and location on the premises
- All licensed premises are required to operate restricted opening hours, closing to the public no later than 10:30pm
- Access to appropriate hand washing and/or hand sanitising facilities is required, with toilet facilities being cleaned on a regular basis
- Takeaway food services can operate in accordance with these social distancing and hygiene guidelines.

Restrictions on the numbers of customers and staff on the premises may be necessary to comply with reduced social distancing of one metre. This may mean entry controls such as closing when capacity has been reached or queue management.

Spot checks will be carried out to ensure that establishments are complying with these criteria. Those that don't may face legal action to close the premises.

Owners and managers should read the full guidance at: covid19.gov.gg



States of Alderney
Presidents Office

Helping Hand Appeal

Providing support for those who are struggling to make ends meet

All Alderney registered residents are welcome to apply

Email: president.alderney@gov.gg
Phone: Gill Trousdale on 820001
www.alderney.gov.gg/helpinghand

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

A Return To Group Activities



Group activities and gatherings including classes, events and church services are now permitted, subject to restrictions.

An organisation may host a group, class, event or social gathering of up to 30 individuals at any one time, subject to implementing strict hygiene and following the appropriate social distancing and record keeping requirements as a 'controlled environment' (see previous page).

Up to 50 people can now attend weddings and funerals.

Contact sports are not permitted at this time, but non-contact group training for these sports may take place.

Organisers of choral and musical activities are asked to carefully assess the virus-spreading risks associated with these activities and maintain two-metre distancing, especially bearing in mind the vulnerable and elderly.

Individuals should avoid sharing equipment, and items must be disinfected between uses in accordance with Public Health standards. Where numerous groups are using a shared space, enhanced environmental hygiene measures should also be implemented to avoid potential contamination between groups.

Detailed guidance is available at: covid19.gov.gg/guidance

Towards a New Normal >> Summary of Island Life in Phase 4

Working from home is still encouraged	Those businesses who couldn't operate fully in phase 2 or 3 can open	All retail businesses can open
Restaurants, hotels, cafes and pubs can open	Sports and leisure facilities can open	Outdoor children's play areas can open
Non-essential travel may be permitted subject to 14 day self-isolation on return	Museums and libraries can open	Public venues can open
Weddings and funerals may be held with up to 50 people	Social gatherings are allowed with up to 30 people	Nightclubs stay closed

Travel restrictions remain in place - anyone returning to the Bailiwick will need to self-isolate

Bad Hair Days



There's good news for those of us who don't have partners who can style a classy hairdo.

Health & Social Care has allowed an exemption for businesses where physical contact is necessary in some of the activities permitted in Phase 4. An obvious example is hairdressing.

Such businesses should still seek to maintain appropriate social distance of at least one metre between individual clients including areas where customers may be queueing or waiting.

Measures to prevent infection, such as avoiding mixing when individuals are unwell and adhering to strict hygiene measures and respiratory etiquette will be of paramount importance.

Get it fixed!



Household repairs and maintenance plus home visits for professional appointments are allowed, subject to appropriate controls.

Social distancing should be maintained between the householders and those attending.

This should not take place if the resident or those attending has or has had any symptoms consistent with Covid-19 within the last 48 hours; if anyone in the household is under a compulsory isolation order; if anyone in the household is continuing to shield following the advice of a medical professional.

TRAVEL NEWS IN BRIEF

SPIKE ISLANDER

The Little Ferry has been given the go-ahead to resume sailings between Alderney and Guernsey carrying up to 12 passengers, at a date to be confirmed.



STAYCATIONS

Director of Public Health Dr Nicola Brink told QuayFM's Tony Le Blanc: "As many people have had to cancel their summer holiday plans, we are looking at internal Bailiwick travel with the intention of promoting the idea of a Bailiwick 'staycation'."

FACEMASKS

Anyone travelling by air from Southampton will be asked to wear a facemask until they reach their destination where they will then self-isolate for 14 days. This will also apply to an onward flight to Alderney. The reason for this is that a virus is more easily spread in an aircraft cabin. They must also self-isolate for 14 days.



HELLO SAILOR

Alderney is now open to recreational boaters. However, the swinging moorings in Braye Harbour are currently not in use and vessels should not use them until advised. All vessels planning to visit Alderney are required to contact the Alderney harbour office in advance on +44 (0)1481 820070 or email: harbour@alderney.gov.gg

TRAVEL Q&A

Fully opening the Bailiwick's borders will depend on the progress that neighbouring countries make in combatting community transmission of the virus. In Phase 4, an allowance is made for non-essential travel but with compulsory 14-day self-isolation when the person returns to the Bailiwick (with exceptions only for authorised critical worker travel) and the same for anyone arriving from outside the Bailiwick.

Q: Is self-isolation monitored?

Anyone arriving in Guernsey must provide details of where they will be self-isolating. These details are photographed and passed to Border Control officers and the Island Medical Centre in Alderney. It is not necessary to meet every newly arriving person in Alderney because their details are already in the possession of Border Control. One person in Alderney has already been formally cautioned following a breach of quarantine.

Q: If someone is travelling to Alderney via Guernsey and their onward flight is cancelled or postponed, what should they do?

They may only leave the airport in Guernsey where their journey is broken (e.g. missed connection) and they must self-isolate in a designated hotel (without leaving their room) before returning to the airport to complete their journey the next day. There are further details on the gov.gg website. They must meet their own expenses.

Q: Why can't they use the Little Ferry?

Anyone flying to Alderney via Guernsey to self-isolate cannot transfer to Alderney via the Little Ferry because they are only permitted to leave the airport for the purpose of self-isolating and then they must return to the airport to complete their onward journey.

Q: What are the guidelines and conditions around registered accommodation?

Accommodation services are not prohibited activities. They can operate but account needs to be taken of the guidance, especially about hygiene, and the requirement to record contact details in a controlled environment. All businesses should read and consider the guidelines published on the gov.gg website

Q: What about self-catering accommodation?

Self-isolation is possible in self-catering accommodation where the requirements for self-isolation can be met – no contact with anyone over the 14-day period. Self-isolators must not leave their self-isolation accommodation for any purpose, not even for exercise or essential shopping.

Q: Will Aurigny be adding more flights throughout the summer following the lifting of travel restrictions?

Aurigny is operating a reduced schedule until the end of August and at the time of going to press, no information has been received about increasing the number of services.

Q: Will non-residents coming to Alderney from the UK be required to show health insurance as there is no shared agreement with the UK?

No one is required to show health insurance and anyone planning to come to Alderney or Guernsey from the UK must consider carefully whether it is wise to do so in the current situation and whether they would be putting themselves and others at greater risk than they would have done by staying at home. Even with private health insurance it is doubtful that health services will be able to cope with an influx of visitors who might require medical treatment if there was a Covid-19 outbreak.

Q: What about pleasure boating and private flights?

Some restrictions on pleasure boating and general aviation have been relaxed further. Boat owners and aircraft pilots are no longer time limited to being out at sea or in local air space. People permanently residing at the same household and companions not at the same address may now accompany boat skippers on board vessels. Sark and Alderney are now open to recreational boaters. At the request of Herm, recreational boaters are not permitted to enter Herm Harbour or land on Rosaire Steps although they can anchor in the island's bays. Skippers and pilots should read 'Guidance for Recreational Boating and General Aviation Issue 2' at: [covid19.gov.gg](https://www.covid19.gov.gg)

Q What about those who want to stay longer than the two-week self-isolation period, such as second homeowners for example?

It is possible that a UK visitor can visit Alderney for a period longer than two weeks as long as they are prepared to self-isolate for 14 days as soon as they arrive on the island.

There are, however, many conditions that come with this and visitors should respect all that has been put in place to protect our island community during this difficult time.

Self-isolation in registered tourist accommodation must be in agreement with the provider and where the requirements for self-isolation can be met. Monitoring of self-isolators has been increased and not observing these requirements could lead to a fine of up to £10,000.

UK residents should also be aware that the UK Government's current advice is that travel to stay in second homes in the UK is not currently permitted. Visitors should seek advice from tourism@alderney.gov.gg

The Success Of The Exit Strategy Is Down To All Of Us...

← What may push us back

- ✗ Reappearance of a case/s of unexplained community transmission.
- ✗ The reappearance of new clusters of infection that pose a risk of onward transmission.
- ✗ Evidence of significant community non-compliance with Public Health requirements.
- ✗ If on-island testing to detect the virus that causes COVID-19 was no longer available.

What will move us to phase 5 →

- ✓ No new cases of COVID-19 acquired through unexplained community transmission
- ✓ No new clusters of infections that pose a risk of onward transmission
- ✓ Hospital admissions for COVID-19 stable or decreasing
- ✓ The continued availability of local testing for COVID-19

Alderney Applauds Our MMH Heroes



shows, and I look forward to the kindly smiling face of the nurses and the warmth and strength of arms gently helping me to get out of bed. And you think of things for us to do. A game of scrabble or bingo, a walk in the corridor or (best) out in the garden in a wheelchair. I do thank you with all my heart for being you."

It's not just scrabble and bingo – there's even ukulele-playing!

And of course, there was a tea party to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day with music and lots of reminiscing of where people were on VE day – from Trafalgar Square to Asia.

On a more solemn note, on Tuesday April 28 at 11am, the MMH team stood for a minute's silence to pay our respects and honour those who have lost their lives to Covid-19.

Everyone at the hospital appreciates the 8pm round of applause of recent weeks. "We could cold hear it every week from down at the MMH," said one nurse. "We also joined in with the clapping as a team to thank our colleagues in the Bailiwick and the UK, and all of the businesses and individuals on Alderney who have been keeping our Island going. We also thank the whole community for staying safe and following Public Health guidance."

The Mignot Memorial Hospital deserves our applause for working around the clock to make sure we have a safe and effective service for the Island community during these unprecedented times.

Alderney is privileged to have such a brilliant team including doctors, nurses, health care assistants, radiographers, housekeepers, laundry assistants, kitchen staff, administrators and the maintenance and gardening staff.

In addition to routine staff training, the team has also been preparing with various scenarios for the eventuality that a person falls ill with Covid-19. They have carried out training alongside the Alderney Ambulance Service, putting carefully thought out action plans into practice and taking part in a number of exercises to ensure patient transfers are as safe and

smooth as possible.

They've also revised the techniques for safe use of personal protective equipment and getting used to the practicality of wearing full PPE while delivering patient care and carrying out patient transfers. They have full supplies of PPE.

The whole island appreciates what they do, none more so than the patients. This letter from a patient on being in lockdown makes the point eloquently:

"The first things that come to mind are patience, kindness and (very important) a smile or better still a laugh; this is especially true in the night when we (the patients) sometimes feel a bit miserable and uncomfortable, and what a difference to see a smiling face or a laugh. It's very rare indeed that any impatience

MMH VISITING TIMES

Hospital visits are to be gradually reintroduced in accordance with current Covid-19 safety guidelines under Phase 4 of the exit strategy:

- Only one nominated person will be allowed to visit.
- Visitors must NOT come to the hospital if they are showing any signs of Covid-19 symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with confirmed Covid-19.
- Visitors will be asked a series of questions and their temperature checked before entering the ward.
- Hands must be washed on entering and leaving the hospital.
- Visits will take place in the patient's room only and two-metre social distancing must be maintained.
- Visiting hours are strictly between 3pm-5pm every day.
- Please note these guidelines will be monitored daily and changes can be made by the Nurse in Charge at any time to protect patients and staff. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to speak to the Nurse in Charge. Tel: 01481 822822.

New Staff: The MMH team will be welcoming a lot of new nursing staff to the team over the next few months with all new staff coming to the island completing the required self-isolation period of 14 days.

Impôt Making The Most Of An Opportunity



The States of Alderney operational teams are not only adopting 'new ways of working' they are actively driving them with some surprising benefits.

Take the Impôt for example. At some point, everyone needs to visit the Impôt, which can sometimes be a daunting trip for commercial users and residents alike. Even on a fine day it's not the easiest place to navigate and keep tidy with swirling winds and various piles of waste to manage.

The recent enforced closure not only gave the States Works Department an opportunity to sort through the various accumulated piles of waste but also discover some new benefits.

They've made disposal easier and safer for both users and workers which has also had a positive impact on the surrounding environment – wildlife, nature and the flora and fauna.

Users are being asked to place their clean waste directly into the container in which the waste will be shipped out, using the doors at ground level. This has not only stopped double-handling of waste but has also significantly reduced the risk of various items being blown inland or lost into the sea.

The area is now much cleaner and tidier. This is only one example and there are more improvements to follow.

This, along with traffic flow management changes, has significantly improved customer service and general facility management, including reducing the risk of injury to users and staff or damage to vehicles and equipment.

Thank you to all those who have provided feedback on your experience and positive attitude to the changes. Previously staff were not only dealing with unexpectedly large influxes of waste being dumped, some just abandoned in large mixed piles in the middle of the area, but also sadly verbal abuse which left staff feeling extremely demoralised.

The works carried out are just the first steps in creating a better waste facility for both Islanders and the local environment. It's important to continue to separate waste before coming to the Impôt reducing time spent at the Impôt, benefitting other users who are waiting to use the facility as well as continuing to support safer use, social distancing and overall efficiency.

States Works has welcomed a new Waste & Recycling Coordinator, Glyn Mason. Glyn started a few weeks ago and is extremely keen on making improvements to the Island's waste facilities. He has fitted in well with an already energetic and hardworking team that is committed to the waste and recycling needs of the Island.

Back to School

The Committee for Education, Sport & Culture has aligned its position on schools to the decision to move to Phase 4 as part of the overall Exit Strategy.

St Anne's School will be able to reopen to all students five days a week from Monday June 8.

St Anne's Pre-School, at the Island Hall, have submitted plans to the States Early Years Team and is expected to resume this week subject to inspection.

Any parents with questions can call St Anne's School on 822173, or St Anne's Preschool on 07781 105616.



St. Anne's School
ALDERNEY

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Battle Is Almost Won But The War Goes On

“It was hard not to feel the sense of relief at the Media Briefing on Friday that we have, by our combined efforts, been able to see the number of positive cases slowly run down to zero. There was a definite air of controlled pleasure that for the moment the battle is almost won.

The war against the virus, however, continues.

Whilst we will always recognise the incredible contributions made by the medical and political leads, we must not forget the unwavering support they have received from the communities they serve. It is only because we trusted their advice and acted collectively as a community that we have been able to ensure that the silent killer has not found a foothold on our Island.

Whilst we can celebrate this success, we must not fall into the trap of thinking the crisis is over. We are in a long game, which requires us to stay diligent and continue to follow the guidance.

The next few weeks will be critical and will no doubt set the framework for what the ongoing normal will look like. We must and will continue to build on our success.

Alderney continues to stand tall.



William Tate

Spotlight On Alderney Businesses



How Boardman's Stepped Up To Keep Alderney Healthy

When Alderney's community pharmacist Paul Durston attended a pandemic planning seminar in October last year, he had little idea how useful the information would be.

“I didn't think that I would ever have to use any of the information in real life, so as lockdown approached we at least had some idea on the direction we would have to take,” he says.

But in March Paul and his Boardman's Pharmacy team found themselves in the front line as the Bailiwick moved into lockdown, working closely with the island's Operations Group to ensure supplies and prescriptions were readily available.

“Changing from a direct customer contact service to a distance-based one is not easy,” he says. “We decided very early on to run with a complete delivery system to reduce the number of people presenting at the pharmacy where the physical layout makes social distancing difficult.”

With just two pharmacists, duties were split with two separate teams to reduce any risk of spreading the virus, and opening times changed with afternoons set aside for dispensing and dealing with issues by telephone.

Some shortages meant that in the early days restrictions were placed on certain products to ensure the fragile logistical chain held up. “But to date we have not run out of paracetamol,

loo paper or pasta,” he smiles. “People may not have been able to get a particular brand of product but we usually have an alternative.”

Through it all, Boardman's has been able to maintain its close working relationship with the Island Medical Centre, the Mignot Memorial Hospital and The Connaught and links with the Operations Group have enabled supplies to be quickly drawn from colleagues in Guernsey.

“Our delivery service was supplied by members of staff and partners, as delivery of medicines requires certain legal requirements to be met,” he adds. “Keeping it in-house took care of this but the help with difficult addresses from our local posties was invaluable and we really appreciated their help.

“My team has been and still is my most valuable asset. They have been superb throughout and dealt magnificently with all of the changes of procedure and extra work involved. I could not imagine having coped without all of their help and support both at work and at home.”

Paul also has a special word of thanks to all the pharmacy's customers for their kind thoughts and gifts. “They have navigated wonderfully all of the many changes we have had to make, and are still making, and without their support we wouldn't have been able to provide the service we do.”