

Communication from Deafblind Scotland during the COVID-19 Pandemic

24 February 2021

The Scottish Government has announced their revised strategic framework to allow Scotland to move out of lockdown.

Nicola Sturgeon said that “we can be extremely positive and hopeful with the progress we have made so far. But we still need to move forward with care and caution to continue to see virus numbers decrease.”

There is growing evidence that the vaccination programme is taking effect and that being vaccinated can decrease the need to go into hospital by as much as 85%.

We are making very good progress, but we still need to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. We are all to continue to ‘**Stay at Home**’ except for essential journeys.

Strategic framework

Restrictions will continue to be in place, and we will progress cautiously through March and April, being reviewed every 3 weeks.

Key Dates:

15th March - Hope to have all primary school children back to classrooms, and more secondary school and university students back. More social contact will be possible with 4 people from 2 households being able to meet outdoors.

Mid-March the Government will release another document with more detailed information and dates for reopening the economy.

5th April - We hope to lift the 'Stay at Home' restrictions. It may be possible for 6 people from 2 households to meet. Also, some essential shops will begin to reopen and click and collect will return.

26th April - All local authorities that are currently in level 4 will move down to level 3, if the data supports this. It is also hoped we will start a phased reopening of the economy and places like gyms, hairdressers, the remainder of non-essential shops etc. will begin to reopen.

Lastly, in May – each local authority area will be assessed and move into lower levels depending on the data for each area.

Remember that by law you can only leave your home or garden to:

- care for a vulnerable person
- essential work, but only if you absolutely cannot work from home
- local shopping
- healthcare
- outdoor socially distanced exercise
- if you do go out for an essential purpose you should only meet one person from a different household in a group no bigger than two

Advice to those shielding remains unchanged

If you are shielding you should now have been offered a first vaccine dose.

At the moment everyone on the shielding list, whether or not you've had your first dose, should keep following the advice that the chief medical officer sent in recent letters.

Remember that Deafblind Scotland is still here to help, please continue to contact us for information and support.

Phone: **0141 777 7774**

Text: **07715 421 377**

Email: **info@dbscotland.org.uk**

Upcoming Deafblind Scotland Activities

Football Quiz with Gordon Smith

Did you know Deafblind Scotland's ambassador is famous Scottish footballer Gordon Smith?

Gordon has offered to meet with our members over Zoom to discuss his football career, answer your questions and test your Scottish football knowledge with a short quiz.

Join Gordon and meet with other DBS members over zoom for some football fun:

Wednesday 17th March from 2pm – 3pm
Zoom Meeting ID - 934 2183 1223

Please get in touch if you require any technology support to enable you to take part.

iPads and Broadband

There has never been a more important time to get connected to the internet.

Do you think you could benefit from having broadband in your house and getting a device to connect to others?

Deafblind Scotland have secured some iPads and MiFi's to allow you to get broadband as part of a Scottish Government initiative to get more people connected. The iPads will be offered free of charge with a free internet connection for 2 years.

Please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to be considered to receive the available devices. Your eligibility will be checked against the guidelines.

Contact Gillian:

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