

Message Key: 0003151B9532D63586555851734B75A1D1E4B498



From: Richard Renouf <R.Renouf@gov.je>
To: Kevin Pamplin <K.Pamplin@gov.je>, Ivan Muscat <I.Muscat@health.gov.je>, Patrick Armstrong <P.Armstrong@health.gov.je>
Cc: [REDACTED], Alex Khaldi <A.Khaldi@gov.je>
Addressed To: [REDACTED], i.muscat@health.gov.je, k.pamplin@gov.je, p.armstrong@health.gov.je, a.khaldi@gov.je
Subject: RE: Gyms
Date: Saturday, December 05, 2020 08:46 UTC

Dear Kevin

Thank you for your email and your continuing support in efforts to suppress the spread of COVID-19.

Evidence shows that gyms and providers of indoor exercise are at a lower risk than some other settings such as hospitality. However, they are not without risk. Government has previously stated that escalation based on evidence as well on local data and intelligence will inform targeted measures.

The recent exponential rises in COVID-19 point to a meaningful and consistent increase in positive cases where community transmission is now established. Current case evidence shows that Jersey is moving rapidly through the escalation framework 'Early Warning' Phase and toward the 'Epidemic Response' phase. There has been one large cluster and at least four known smaller incidents across indoor exercise provider settings, including amongst exercise professionals. This alongside the knowledge of spread through 20-40 year olds, a key demographic in exercise settings, has led to the decision to close the sector at this time. Whilst consideration is given to the rules in the tier system adopted by England, infection rates are rising sharply here and different measures are appropriate at this time for our local circumstances.

It is recognised that indoor sports and recreation facilities play a vital role in ensuring the ongoing health and wellbeing of Islanders. Which is why, throughout this year, we have followed a managed return to activity, whilst ensuring that public health measures are maintained. This balanced approach ensures the mental and physical wellbeing of Islanders. However, the safety of customers, staff, volunteers and their families remain the absolute priority.

Robust additional action to both target the virus alongside stronger universal measures, is now needed to slow the spread of infection. This targeted approach includes the difficult decision to temporarily close indoor sport and exercise venues, while outdoor sport and exercise remains open and available.

With kind regards

Richard

Deputy Richard Renouf
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From: Kevin Pamplin <K.Pamplin@gov.je>
Sent: 03 December 2020 16:28
To: Richard Renouf <R.Renouf@gov.je>; Ivan Muscat <I.Muscat@health.gov.je>; Patrick Armstrong <P.Armstrong@health.gov.je>
Cc: [REDACTED] Alex Khaldi <A.Khaldi@gov.je>
Subject: Gyms

Dear Minister (and all)

You may or may not have seen the reaction to closing of gyms etc locally since yesterday's news. As you and others know I've been fully supportive and understanding of the pandemic and its spread.

However you may have all seen the new consideration the UK SAGE & GOV have given to the tier systems to allowing some gyms to open. Based on the regions transmission rates, also the ability for the places to follow the guidelines firmly (rule of 6, distancing, hand washing, wearing of masks all the time) as well as ventilation of the environment.

Lastly is the role remaining active fit and healthy is not just for the obvious physical benefits but the genuine mental health benefits. This is more of an issue for the last "lockdown" as its winter and the current weather doesn't help this for many folk.

So if this can be reconsidered at the last min with all the measures in place with strict enforcement which could now be supported as enforcement officers won't now be needed to attend pubs & hospitality.

Of course as ever fully respect the data if transmission rates in professional gyms are at a peak then can it at least be reviewed instead?

Think this will (with those strict measures as we have to stop the transmission I wholly agree with) go some way to help so many islanders mental health.

Warm regards,

Kevin

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