



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Amendments to the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020**

DATE **16 October 2020**

BY **Mark Drakeford MS, First Minister**

The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 place a series of restrictions on gatherings, the movement of people, and the operation of businesses, including closures. They require businesses, which are open to take reasonable measures to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus. They are designed to protect people from the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

The number of cases across Wales is growing and our health service is coming under pressure.

To keep Wales safe, the Welsh Government is therefore amending the Regulations to make it clear that people living in areas with a high-prevalence of coronavirus in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland would not be able to travel to parts of Wales where there is a low prevalence.

It is vital that we keep communities which have low levels of infection as safe as possible and this sensible and necessary restriction will help prevent the virus moving from more urban, highly populated areas to more sparsely populated areas.

It is already prohibited for people to travel into a local health protection area here whether they come from other parts of Wales, the UK or from other countries. As with the rules for Local Health Protection Areas there are some exceptions such as work or providing charitable or voluntary services when those cannot be carried out where they live.

We also recognise that this is a particularly difficult time for children and young people and we will also amend the Regulations to allow children to leave their local

health protection areas to play sport or participate in other activities such as drama or dance classes which are so important to their mental and physical health and well-being.

If we all continue to work together, we can protect ourselves and families and keep Wales safe.