



Your ref P-05-1145
Our ref JM/00273/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Petitions Committee Chair
Senedd Cymru
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Seneddpetitions@senedd.wales

1 March 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February regarding a petition to allow parents of young children to drive to use local parks and playgrounds while alert level four restrictions are in place.

Travel is not permitted without a reasonable excuse in alert level four. A person has a reasonable excuse if they are travelling for a purpose that is reasonably necessary and there is no reasonable practicable alternative. Examples of these purposes are provided in Schedule 4, Part 3 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) No.5 (Wales) Regulations 2020.

Parks and playgrounds are allowed to remain open for outdoor exercise. People can visit parks and playgrounds with other people for exercise purposes as long as they follow the rules on who they can exercise with.

Exercise, including exercise at parks and playgrounds, must be undertaken locally and from home. No journeys or any significant distance should be taken which includes travel to beauty spots, parks and playgrounds.

I know these restrictions can be challenging, it is important people do not travel at this time while the risk of infection is high and as we prioritise getting children back into schools. Staying at home and exercising locally is important in helping prevent the spread of the virus and keeping Wales safe. Travel for exercise can lead to congregation of people at beauty spots and makes it difficult for the police to enforce the stay at home provisions.

This is particularly important at the moment, as the dominant form of the virus in the community is the highly transmissible variant first identified in Kent.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

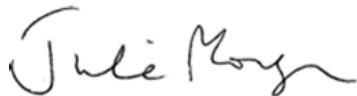
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We do not want to see a resurgence of the virus again just at the point where we are beginning to see cases coming under control and vaccination rates rising every day.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) No.5 (Wales) Regulations 2020 require a review of restrictions to be undertaken every 21 days to ensure they are proportionate, effective and necessary. The reviews consider the latest evidence on the public health situation as well as wider socio-economic and well-being implications.

Cases of coronavirus continue to fall across Wales and the pressure on our NHS is easing. However, the number of people testing positive still remains high and there are still too many people seriously ill and in hospital. We must not let the virus re-establish itself by relaxing restrictions too soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morgan'.

Julie Morgan AS/MS

Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol