

**Covid Stable:** We still expect to encounter additional waves of infection. We expect new variants to emerge, and some may become dominant. But these waves will not likely put unsustainable pressure on the Health and Social Care system. Vaccines and other pharmaceutical interventions are expected to remain effective in preventing serious illness. We consider this the most likely scenario....

Under Covid Stable we expect to integrate Covid-specific approaches into our public health response for communicable diseases, and in particular respiratory infections. This will mean surveillance and reporting of Covid-19 will be communicated alongside other respiratory infections, in turn providing greater context and comparators. The public health response to outbreaks will follow well-established protocols for communicable diseases.

**Covid Urgent:** This is a possibility we need to plan for. A new variant could emerge that has a high level of vaccine escape or other advantages that puts large numbers of people at risk of severe illness, for example similar to the levels we saw during the alpha wave in December 2020. This may require all of us to work together to take actions to protect others. ... Under a Covid Urgent scenario we would need to respond collectively to bring rates of infection down enough for interventions such as targeted vaccinations or rapid deployment of treatments. .... We expect that under Covid Urgent we would provide clear guidance in areas such as wearing face coverings, working from home, taking extra care when visiting vulnerable people and taking other precautions.