

Barrowford Parish Council Covid-19 Response

Effective immediately, and until further notice, Barrowford Parish Council cancels all physical meetings in order to minimise the spread of the Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) responsible for the latest Covid-19 pandemic.

This means that there will be no Full Council (every 3rd Wednesday of the month), no General Purpose Committee (every 1st Wednesday of alternate months) and no Working Groups (ad-hoc). All community group meetings at Holmefield House are also cancelled until further notice.

Physical visits to the office at Holmefield house will be prohibited until further notice.

All business will be conducted via email and virtual meeting where possible. The clerk will continue to operate out of Holmefield House, answering the phone and emails, as far as is possible, and all work in progress will continue as long as it does not involve physical proximity with members of the public.

Members of Barrowford Parish Council will endeavour to do our part to “flatten the curve” ([Fig. 1](#)) to minimise infection rates and alleviate the burden on our already stretched health service.

We recommend that people of Barrowford and beyond follow NHS guidelines¹ for **self-isolation** and hand hygiene. Remember, **it’s not about whether you get ill but more about whether you pass the virus to other people**, like your friends, who then pass it on and/or get ill.

There will be tough times ahead. We need to look after ourselves and take care of our neighbours, especially those who may be very vulnerable.

The situation is fluid and further updates will be posted when required.

Watch this excellent [Youtube/Vox video](#) about fighting Covid-19: youtu.be/dSQztKXR6k0.

1 NHS Guidelines: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ Note: over the coming days/weeks these guidelines may change frequently, so keep checking back.

Supplementary Information

1. Coronavirus is spread between us via a variety of vectors (airborne, skin contact, faecal contact). It has also come to light^{2,3} that people showing no symptoms may play a major part in transmission; only isolating people that are showing symptoms does not make sense. Wide-spread testing will help to address this problem, but this is not happening yet.
2. Some advice suggests that banning meetings of 500 or 50 or 5 will be ok. These are arbitrary numbers with little scientific validation. Scientific consensus suggests that there is no safe number, but the lower the better (current government strategy seems to be risk reduction rather than elimination). See "[The Korean clusters](#)"⁴ for how just one person can tip the balance.
3. If we can slow down the virus spread rate then we can reduce the impact Covid-19 has on the NHS. See [Fig. 1](#).
4. The countries (e.g. South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong) showing the best flattening effects have gone for near total total isolation, countries (e.g. Italy) where people ignored social separation advice for too long have fared a lot worse. See [Fig. 2](#).
5. An example⁵ of how early social distancing versus late social distancing works is the difference between infection rates in two Italian areas: Bergamo and Lodi. Social distancing interventions were invoked on Feb 23rd in Lodi but not until March 8th in Bergamo, providing some recent empirical evidence for the potential of "flattening the curve" interventions. See [Fig. 3](#).
6. The effects of social distancing have been know about since the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918/1919. In [Fig. 4](#) the effects of cancelling (St Louis) and not cancelling (Philadelphia) a city parade can be seen.

2 Tindale, L.C. et al, Transmission interval estimates suggest pre-symptomatic spread of COVID-19, medRxiv 6Mar2020, [doi: 10.1101/2020.03.03.20029983](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.03.03.20029983)

3 Li, R. et al, Substantial undocumented infection facilitates the rapid dissemination of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV2), Science 16Mar2020, [doi: 10.1126/science.abb3221](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abb3221)

4 Web address: graphics.reuters.com/CHINA-HEALTH-SOUTHKOREA-CLUSTERS/0100B5G33SB/index.html

5 From Dowd, J.B. et al, Demographic science aids in understanding the spread and fatality rates of COVID-19, OSF 14Mar2020, osf.io/fd4rh/?view_only=c2f00dfe3677493faa421fc2ea38e295

Flattening the Coronavirus Curve

One chart explains why slowing the spread of the infection is nearly as important as stopping it.

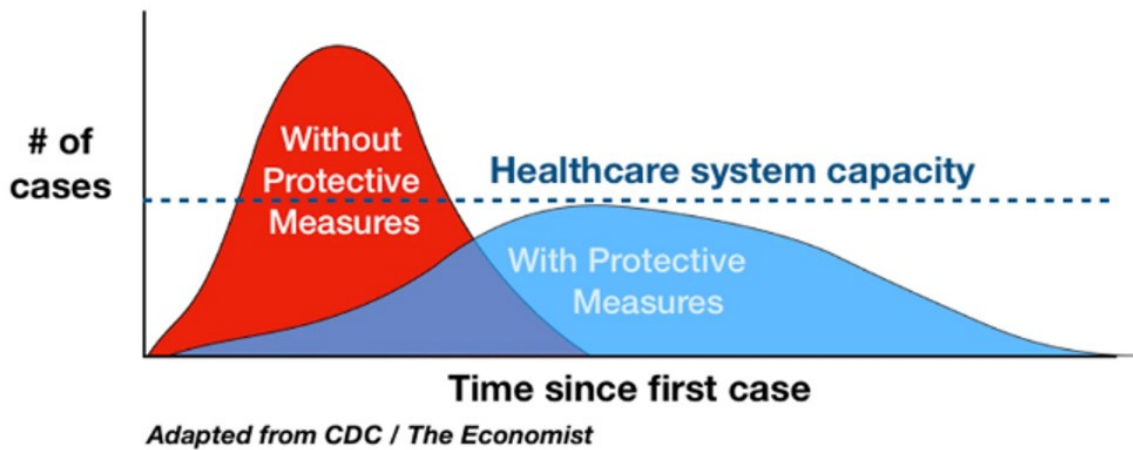


Fig. 1

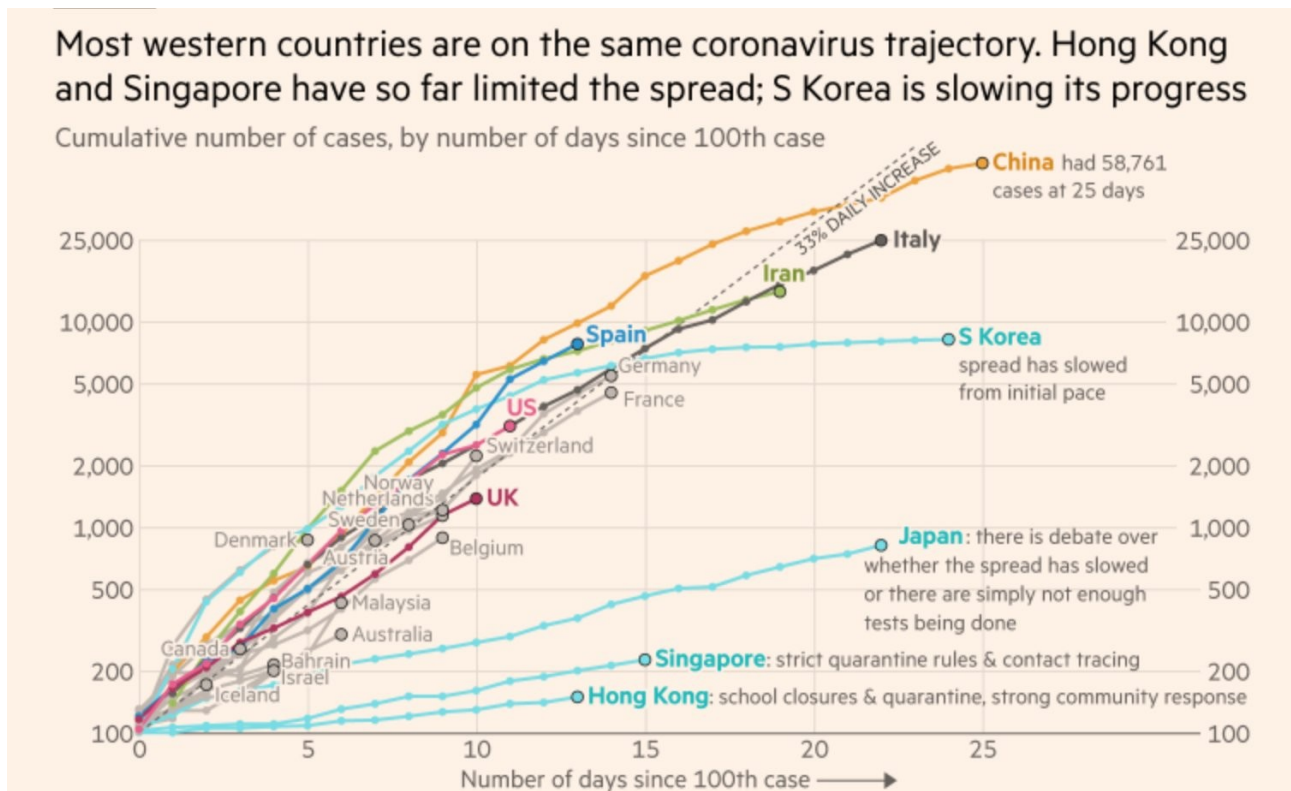


Fig. 2

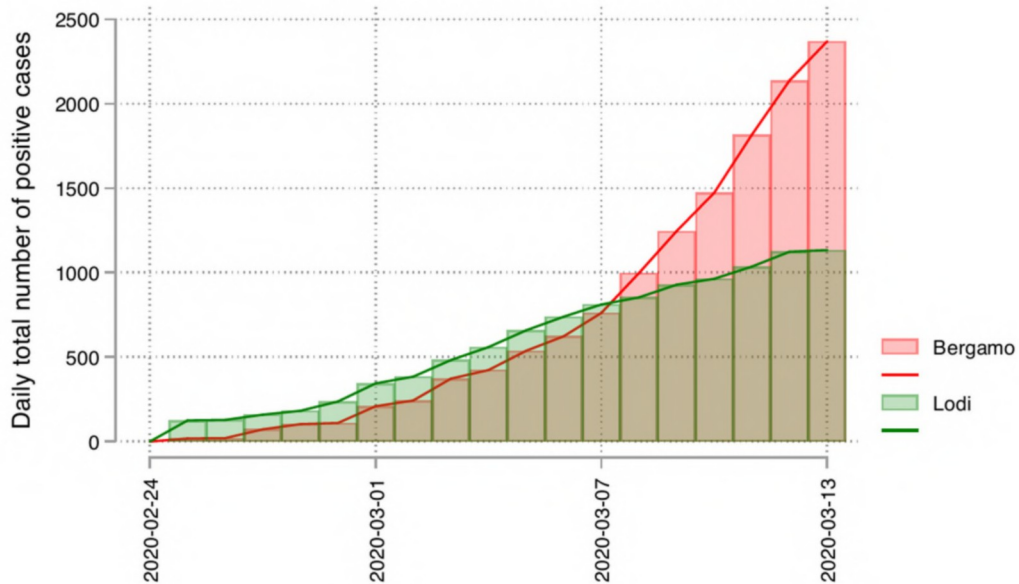


Figure S3. Number of cases in the Province of Bergamo (red) and Lodi (green) as of March 13, 2020

Fig. 3

Effects of social distancing on 1918 flu deaths



Sources: "Public health interventions and epidemic intensity during the 1918 influenza pandemic" by Richard J. Hatchett, Carter E. Mecher, Marc Lipsitch, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences May, 2007. Data derived from "Public health interventions and epidemic intensity during the 1918 influenza pandemic" by Richard J. Hatchett, Carter E. Mecher, Marc Lipsitch, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences May, 2007.

TIM MEKO/THE WASHINGTON POST

Fig. 4