**Covid-19 and Islands**

***South Uist, Scotland***

1. What actions are being taken to protect the island community from Covid 19? In particular, how are travel restrictions being put in place and enforced?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Mary Schmoller | 14 April 2020 | * Government and CalMac are not allowing people on ferries. Flights difficult too.
* People adhering to guidelines
 |
| Mary Schmollermary\_schmoller@hotmail.com  | 13 May 2020 | * Travel restrictions have been put in place and South Uist now only has one direct ferry from Lochboisdale to Oban on a Wednesday Sunday Service also cancelled. Wednesday is the day the ferry crew changes over. Barra ferry also runs on a Wednesday - all designed for the crew not the community.
 |

1. What actions will be taken should people on the island have Covid 19?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Respondent | Date | Response  |
| Mary Schmoller | 14 April 2020 | * An Ambulance Plane with Covid 19 pods has been set up.
* Local hospital prepared. Doctors responsive.
* Covid has not arrived on our island yet as far as we know
 |
| Mary Schmollermary\_schmoller@hotmail.com  | 13 May 2020 | * Stay home and ring 111. Resilience Uist will come and do your shopping and collect medicine if you put a RED sticker in your window, otherwise GREEN sticker means you do not need assistance. Medical profession will eventually come and treat you if needed and LoganAir has a special ambulance plane designed for COVID19 patients
 |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure that essential goods and services are provided to the island community?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Mary Schmoller | 14 April 2020 | * Normal supply chain seems to be working here in Uist – ferry breakdowns impact as does reduced timetable but functioning
 |
| Mary Schmollermary\_schmoller@hotmail.com  | 13 May 2020 | * At his stage we do not have any problems getting services - only under 2 hours to Skye
 |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure that people working on the islands, not only in the tourism sector, are sustained financially in the short term and in the long term?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Mary Schmoller | 14 April 2020 | * Government systems are in place – both governments, most employers appear to be paying 100 furlough if they have 10+ staff
 |
| Mary Schmollermary\_schmoller@hotmail.com  | 13 May 2020 | * Government Scheme, fishing has started up again - on short term. Long term serious implications for Tourism - but if we stay virus free maybe there will be an increase in tourism.
 |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure the mental well-being of people on the islands?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Mary Schmoller | 14 April 2020 | * Everyone is learning zoom video conferencing and people talking on phone.
* Resilience Uist set up to support those who cannot leave houses – with shopping medicines etc.
* Local shared view is that each township looks after its own – so stay in own township except for when necessary – shopping etc.
* People out for walks meet the other villagers at a distance.
* Radio nan Gaidheal is being very friendly and good old facebook is streaming endless music
 |
| Mary Schmollermary\_schmoller@hotmail.com  | 13 May 2020 | * RED and GREEN stickers. Villages checking on each other. It is now getting difficult as people want to see people. Hard for Old People 80+ who are not IT Literate- no papers they normally spend time with WHFP etc
 |

1. If you consider it appropriate, feel free to share any data about people who have Covid 19 on your island and of people who, sadly, have passed away because of Covid 19.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Mary Schmoller | 14 April 2020 | * As of 14 April, no Losses in my area at least
 |
| Mary Schmollermary\_schmoller@hotmail.com  | 13 May 2020 | * It is not here as far as we know. Suspicion in community it was here in January - with two well known locals being hospitalised and flown to mainland - luckily they survived but very very ill. Pneumonia - several others around the same time.
 |

1. If applicable, how are the lockdown measures being relaxed?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Respondent  | Date | Response |
|  |  |  |

1. Is there anything else you want to share?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Mary Schmoller | 14 April 2020 | * Everyone talks to people endlessly on phone and video but all prefer to see people – at a distance even if only to call out to each other.
* People becoming concerned that family on mainland may succumb to the virus and they would not be able to attend funeral – even if close.   Mainland family feeling same – they could not travel back for funeral.
 |
| Mary Schmollermary\_schmoller@hotmail.com  | 13 May 2020 | * There must be more than Uist & Barra with no cases. Does anyone know how widespread it is. Do not understand why it is not being publicly tracked.
 |

**

*This information has been collated by the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance in collaboration with Island Innovation and can be found at* [*https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/*](https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/)*.*