

Sir,

While stringent lockdown measures were needed to curtail the spread of Covid-19, these will not be sustainable or tolerable for long. To minimise both infections and the harms of lockdown, government must incorporate three approaches into its strategy. The first is to recognise that [different parts of the country](#) are affected differently, depending on their geographic, economic or socio-cultural background. This calls for a decentralised approach with explicit regional [and local authority](#) leadership.

The second is to expand community testing and individual case detection, contact tracing and appropriate isolation as a core disease control measure. When combined with some continued physical distancing, improved hygiene (including face masks) and [measured](#) travel restrictions, draconian lockdown measures can be relaxed.

The third is a national mobilisation of scientists, technicians and biotech firms, with a temporary suspension of patents and regulations to enable regular population-wide testing.

Yours sincerely

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