

In these extraordinary times – the likes of which none of us have seen in our lifetimes – we must take extraordinary decisions: difficult decisions that will have profound implications for everyone.

We must also rely on the extraordinary and selfless actions of others.

Our emergency services, our health workers and members of the Royal Bermuda Regiment are potentially putting themselves in harm's way every day.

Other frontline staff such as customs officers are serving Bermuda commendably. Teachers have continued to teach our youth despite difficult circumstances.

Our water and our gas are still being delivered. Bus drivers continue to drive our health workers.

We rightly salute them all.

But, Mr Speaker, one group is consistently left out of this roll call – those on the frontline in our supermarkets and pharmacies. From cashiers to the people who stock the shelves to the suppliers – all have done an amazing job of keeping Bermuda going.

Mr Speaker, we should salute those men and women as well.

I have said before that this is a war and one that Bermuda cannot afford to lose.

It is in that spirit that we have offered support to the Premier and his Government and it is why we support this curfew. We must do everything we can to stop this virus spreading.

The consequences for every man, woman and child of not doing so are too huge to contemplate.

I have been in very regular contact with the Premier, offering advice and ideas. I want to thank the OBA team for their input. Everyone has played a part.

It is to the Premier's credit that he has not been afraid to implement some of our suggestions.

This is indeed not the time for partisan politics and the One Bermuda Alliance will continue to take a collaborative approach.

Mr Speaker, I would like to seek one point of clarification.

How was it determined from the Public Health England modelling that two weeks of curfew was sufficient?

Given that the confirmed cases rose from 2 to 37 within a 3-week period and considering that we have a significant number of people returning home who have been exposed to hotbeds of infection, has this been included in the model?

One final thought Mr Speaker.

While it is absolutely correct to focus on the fight to rid this Island of COVID-19, we must have an eye on the future.

I am extremely concerned about this summer and what it will look like in terms of jobs for Bermudians and the health of Bermudian businesses.

We need to be planning for the future and how we can make it through the rest of the year with the minimum amount of economic pain.

One thing is clear – we cannot go on as we were. It is not going to be business as normal.

Bermuda, please ensure you follow the rules: keep off the roads, practice social distancing and practice good personal hygiene.

Let us all work together to get through this crisis. May God bless Bermuda.