

The Amateur Epidemiologist

32-bar reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

Bars

1 – 8	1 st couple set, cross passing right shoulder (no hands), cast two places, dancing around third couple to finish in the middle facing first corners. 2 nd couple step up on bars 5 and 6.
9 – 16	1 st couple dance hello goodbye setting.
17 – 20	1 st couple dance a half reel of four with first corners, finish passing right shoulder to face second corners.
21 – 24	1 st couple dance a half reel of four with second corners, ending in second place on opposite sides.
25 – 28	All three couples chase half-way around the set.
29 – 32	1 st couple birl.
	Repeat having passed a couple.

During the 2020 COVID-19 lock-down period, the whole nation became amateur epidemiologists and knowledgeably discussed weighty matters such as community transmission, flattening the curve and social distancing. The daily one o'clock briefings from the Prime Minister and Director General of Health became a daily fixture in many households as we eagerly awaited news about the number of new cases and whether we were flattening the curve.

The dance depicts some of the changes to our daily routines such acknowledging friends from afar on our daily walks, swerving off the footpath to keep two meters from other walkers and queuing for groceries. Finally lockdown ends and we are all able to mix again.

Devised by Andrew Oliver during the 2020 COVID-19 lock-down.

Recommended music: The Magic of Merrill (The Reel of Seven)