NEWS

THE BIG PICTURE

The soaring joy of a family reunion

Alison Shepherd

The BMJ

[Image: Yara/Reuters]

The meeting in Rome of Domenico di Massa with his granddaughter Cecilia for the first time in two months was

echoed across Italy as families emerged onto the streets as a staged end to its nationwide covid-19 lockdown began.

Italy follows Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria in beginning to lift the restrictions that have kept households in quarantine for many weeks with phased openings of schools, shops, and offices. Across Europe governments have reiterated that any easing of restrictions will be cautious and reversible to prevent a second peak in their epidemics.

The UK government is expected to make an announcement this weekend on when and how it will ease its lockdown.