

Local COVID Alert Levels

The government is committed to ensuring the right levels of intervention in the right places to manage outbreaks. Working with local authorities through the contain framework, our approach has been simplified so that there are now three Local COVID Alert Levels.

Local COVID Alert Level: Medium

This is for areas where national restrictions continue to be in place.

This means:

- People must not socialise in groups larger than 6, indoors or outdoors (other than where a legal exemption applies)
- Businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-Secure manner, other than those which remain closed in law
- Certain businesses selling food or drink on their premises are required to close between 10pm and 5am. Businesses and venues selling food for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-thru
- Schools and universities remain open
- Places of worship remain open, subject to the Rule of 6
- Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on numbers of attendees
- Exercise classes and organised sport can continue to take place outdoors - or indoors, if the Rule of 6 is followed

People must:

- Wear a face covering in those areas where this is mandated

People should continue to:

- Follow social distancing rules
- Work from home where you can effectively do so
- When travelling, plan ahead or avoid busy times and routes. Walk or cycle if they can

Local COVID Alert Level: High

This is for areas with a higher level of infections where some additional restrictions are in place.

This means:

- People must not socialise with anybody outside of their household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place

- People must not socialise in a group of more than 6 outside, including in a garden or other spaces like beaches or parks (other than where specific exemptions apply in law).
- Businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-Secure manner, other than those which remain closed in law.
- Certain businesses selling food or drink on their premises are required to close between 10pm and 5am. Businesses and venues selling food for consumption off the premises, can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-thru.
- Schools, universities and places of worship remain open
- Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees
- Exercise classes and organised sport can continue to take place outdoors. These will only be permitted indoors if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or share a support bubble with)
- People can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, for work or to access education, but should look to reduce the number of journeys they make where possible

People must:

- Wear a face covering in those areas where this is mandated

People should continue to:

- Follow social distancing rules
- Work from home where they can effectively do so
- Walk or cycle where possible, or plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport.

Local COVID Alert Level: Very High

This is for areas with a very high level of infections and where tighter restrictions are in place. The restrictions placed on areas with a very high level of infections can vary, and are based on discussions between central and local government. You should therefore check the specific rules in your area.

At a minimum, this means:

- People must not socialise with anybody they do not live with, or have formed a support bubble with, in any indoor setting, or in any private garden, or at most outdoor hospitality venues and ticketed events.
- They must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in an outdoor public space such as a park or beach, the countryside, a public garden, or a sports venue.

- Pubs and bars must close. They can only remain open where they operate as if they were a restaurant - which means serving substantial meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal. They may only serve alcohol as part of such a meal.
- Schools and universities remain open
- Places of worship remain open, subject to the Rule of 6
- Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees. However, wedding receptions are not allowed.
- People should try to avoid travelling outside the Very High alert level area they are in, or entering a Very High alert level area, other than for things like work, education, for voluntary, charitable or youth services, to meet caring responsibilities or if they are in transit.
- People should avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK if they are resident in a Very High alert level area, or avoid staying overnight in a Very High alert level area if they are resident elsewhere.

People must:

- Wear a face covering in those areas where this is mandated

People should continue to:

- Follow social distancing rules
- Work from home, where they can effectively do so
- Travel to venues or amenities which are open, for work or to access education, but aim to reduce the number of journeys they make

This is the baseline in Very High Alert Level areas. The government will also seek to agree additional interventions in consultation with local authorities, in order to drive down transmission of the virus. These could include the following options.

- Restrictions preventing the sale of alcohol in hospitality or closing all hospitality (except takeaway and delivery).
- Closing indoor and outdoor entertainment venues and tourist attractions.
- Closing venues such as leisure centres and gyms (while ensuring provision remains available for elite athletes, youth and disabled sport and physical activity).
- Closing public buildings, such as libraries and community centres (while ensuring provision remains available for youth and childcare activities, and support groups).
- Closing personal care and close contact services or prohibiting the highest-risk activities.
- Closing performing arts venues for the purposes of performing to audiences.