

## Local COVID alert levels for England

see guidance for [Wales](#), [Scotland](#), and [Northern Ireland](#)

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### What local COVID alert levels mean

Local COVID alert levels provide information for local authorities, residents and workers about what they should do to manage new coronavirus outbreaks in their area. Alert levels are sometimes called tiers.

Clinically extremely vulnerable people in England will receive new guidance to help them reduce their risk from coronavirus, tailored to where they live. The list doesn't include dementia but evidence shows that people with dementia are at high risk of getting the virus. If you or someone you know has dementia, following these new guidelines will therefore be helpful.

The guidance will be tied into the new local COVID [alert levels](#) framework, meaning those at the highest risk of serious illness from the virus will receive specific advice depending on the level of risk in their local area, as coronavirus rates continue to rise.

### Why the government is introducing local COVID alert levels

The government has set in place three local COVID alert levels so that the right levels of intervention is in place to manage local coronavirus outbreaks.

## Local COVID alert level: [medium](#) (tier 1)

This is for areas where [national restrictions](#) continue to be in place without further local restrictions.

This means:

- You can only meet a maximum of 6 people you do not live with in a group (or are in your support bubble) either indoors or outdoors (including at home). This is called the '[rule of six](#)' and must be followed because it's the law.
- restaurants, cafes and pubs must ensure customers only consume food and drink when seated, and must be closed from 10pm to 5am
- businesses and venues selling takeaway food to eat outside can continue to do so after 10pm either through a delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through
- schools and universities remain open
- places of worship remain open and must ensure they keep to the [rule of 6](#)
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with limits on the numbers attending
- exercise classes and organised sport can continue to take place outdoors, or indoors if the [rule of 6](#) is followed

You must:

- [wear a face covering in those areas where this is required \(unless you are exempt\), including entering, leaving and moving around in restaurants, cafes and pubs](#)

You should continue to:

- follow [social distancing](#) rules
- work from home where you can
- when travelling, plan ahead or avoid busy times and routes. Walk or cycle if you can

[Find out more about the measures that apply in medium alert level areas](#) to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

## Local COVID alert level: [high](#) (tier 2)

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

This means as well as the restrictions in the alert level medium described above:

- you must not socialise with anybody outside of your household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- you 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)
- schools, universities and places of worship remain open
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the numbers attending
- 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, or for youth or disability sport
- you can continue to travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but should look to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible

You must:

- [wear a face covering in those areas where this is required \(unless you are exempt\), including entering, leaving and moving around in restaurants, cafes and pubs](#)

You should continue to:

- follow [social distancing](#) rules
- work from home where you can
- when travelling, plan ahead or avoid busy times and routes. Walk or cycle if you can

[Find out more about the measures that apply in high alert level areas](#) to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

## Local COVID alert level: [very high](#) (tier 3)

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 are maybe different as they are based on discussions between central and local government. You should therefore [check the specific rules in your area](#).

This means:

- you must not socialise with anybody you do not live with, or have formed a support bubble with, indoors, in a private garden or at most outdoor venues
- you 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, serving meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal. They can only serve alcohol as part of such a meal
- schools and universities remain open
- places of worship remain open, but household mixing is not permitted
- [weddings](#) and [funerals](#) can take place with limits on the number of attending and wedding receptions are not allowed
- 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), or for youth or disability sport
- you should try to avoid travelling outside the very-high alert level area you are in or entering a very-high alert level area, other than for things like work, education or youth services, to meet caring responsibilities or if you are travelling through as part of a longer journey
- you should avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK if you are resident in a very-high alert level area, or avoid staying overnight in a very-high alert level area if you are resident elsewhere

You must:

- [wear a face covering in those areas where this is required](#)

You should continue to:

- follow [social distancing](#) rules
- work from home where you can
- travel to venues that are open, for work or education, but limit the number of journeys you 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 to reduce the spread of coronavirus You should [check whether additional restrictions apply in your area](#).

[Find out more about the measures that apply in very high alert level areas](#) to help reduce the spread of coronavirus.

For further information please go to the government website <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

See advice for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-receive-updated-advice-tailored-to-local-covid-alert-levels>