

TIER UPDATE 16 October 2020

Local COVID alert level update for Lancashire

[Lancashire](#) will move from local COVID alert level high to very high on Saturday 17 October. The local COVID alert level very high will take effect across all parts of Lancashire including, Burnley, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire, Wyre.

The new measures that will come into place include:

- 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.
- People 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.
- **All pubs and bars must close, unless they are serving substantial meals.**
- **People should try to avoid travelling outside the very high alert level or entering a very high alert level area other than for work, education or for caring responsibilities or to travel through as part of a longer journey.**
- **Residents should avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK, and others should avoid staying overnight in the very high alert area.**

In addition, following discussions with local leaders it was agreed that from Monday 19 October:

- The adult gaming industry, casinos, bingo halls, bookmakers and betting shops, and soft play areas must close
- Car boot sales would not be permitted

These measures will be reviewed every 14 days to consider whether they are still appropriate.

Support package for Lancashire

To support the local authority during this period, the government will be providing a support package worth £12 million as well as establishing a dedicated, ministerial-led taskforce with additional funding to work with Lancashire leaders to support local businesses to recover over the coming 6 months.

New travel restriction for entering Wales become regulations from 18.00 Friday 16 October

[Under the regulations](#) that come into force from 18.00 today, Friday 16 October, [people who live in areas of high coronavirus infection rates across the UK](#) are not allowed to travel to Wales unless it is for work, education or other essential purpose (a reasonable excuse). The areas this applies to are:

- Local COVID Alert level: high in England - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2020/1104/schedule/2/made>
- Local COVID Alert level: very high in England - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2020/1105/schedule/2/made>
- The central belt of Scotland - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2020/318/regulation/2/made>
- All of Northern Ireland

Travel to those areas of Wales with local restrictions is already prohibited (and this applies to all, whether living in Wales or not). The restrictions work both ways, so for example, people are not for example permitted to travel between Pembrokeshire to Merseyside without a reasonable excuse.

Please see below some recent guidance clarifications for England from DCMS, which you may find useful.

Travel and overnight stays in local COVID alert level: high areas

People can still travel within high alert level areas to hotels and other guest accommodation, but should only do this with other people in their household or support bubble. People can still go on holiday outside of high alert level areas, but must only do so with other people in their household or support bubble.

Travel and overnight stays in [Local COVID alert level: very high](#) areas

Residents of very high alert areas should avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK, except if they need to do so for work, education or caring responsibilities and they must not stay with anyone they do not live with elsewhere in the UK. People are being asked to avoid staying overnight in a very high alert level area where possible, except for those who need to for work, education or caring responsibilities. Residents from a very high alert level area may travel to hotels and other guest accommodation within that area but should only do so with people in their household or support bubble.

How [local COVID alert level: medium](#) differs from previous national regulations

Local COVID Alert levels introduced earlier this week have seen the nationwide regulations that were in place, replaced by 'Local COVID Alert Level: medium'. There are some differences which are worth noting for tourism and hospitality as follows:

- Motorway services, airports and seaports will be exempted from the 10pm hospitality curfew (though no alcohol is to be served between 10pm and 5am).
- In addition to delivery and drive-thru, hospitality venues will now be able to offer a click-and-collect service for the sale of food and non-alcoholic drink between 10pm and 5am, provided customers have pre-ordered by phone, online, or by post.
- Theatres, concert halls and cinemas will be exempt from requiring people to be seated whilst ordering food and drink.
- The restrictions on singing, dancing and loud music in hospitality premises will be removed.

Guidance for outdoor events catering

- Where there is a seating in an adjacent area to a stall or outlet that is serving food and drink, and customers will be using it, their orders must be taken and served at the table if the stall or outlet sells alcohol. Where the sale of alcohol is not offered, customers will need to be seated when eating but can order food from the counter.
- Customers eating and drinking at tables will need to sit in groups of up to 6 people (unless they are visiting as a household or support bubble which is larger than 6). Signs should be put up to remind customers to only interact with their group.
- Where there is no seating available, the stall or outlet will be providing a take away service. The customer can order their food and drink including alcohol to eat and drink anywhere in the outdoor setting.
- Customers should be reminded to adhere to safe social distancing when queuing for food and drink by putting up signs or introducing a one-way system that customers can follow or employing extra marshals to enforce this.
- Customers eating and drinking in the outdoor setting should not gather in groups of more than 6 people

Guidance on NHS QR codes in hotels

Displaying an official NHS QR code poster and collecting contact details for NHS Test and Trace is a legal requirement for hotels. However, if a guest chooses to check in by scanning the NHS QR code, they do not also need to complete the customer log. In this case the guest should scan the hotel's QR code each day of their stay.

If a hotel has different venues within it, such as a restaurant or bar, separate QR code posters should be displayed in each of these. Guests can check into these spaces allowing them to be sent notifications with public health advice if needed. Further guidance can be found [here](#)

Other Government updates

- Advice for [UK visa applicants and temporary UK residents](#) with information updated on family and private visa concession and loss of income information.

COVID-19 Situation update 16 October 2020

- To see the number of cases of COVID-19 in England and the UK visit the [UK COVID-19 dashboard](#).

- To see the number of cases globally see the [World Health Organisation dashboard](#).

TOURISM ALLIANCE UPDATE – 16 OCTOBER

Here's today's update. Have a good weekend and, if you are one of the areas moving from Medium to High Alert start tomorrow, don't forget to take a friend to the pub tonight (and take your household for a Sunday roast over the weekend after visiting a local attraction).

- **A Good Rule of Thumb**

I've been getting a number of enquiries from people asking about the rules when people travel from an area with one Alert status to an area with a different Alert status. Here's an easy way of thinking about these situations and the restrictions that apply:

- When people travel to an area with a lower alert level than the one they came from, they take the rules that apply to meeting family and friends with them
- When people travel to an area with a higher alert level than the one they came from, they adopt the local rules for meeting family and friends.

- **Wales Update**

The First Minister for Wales has said today that, although no final decision had been taken, the Welsh Government was planning a "fire break" set of lockdown restrictions that would see people confined to their homes and businesses shutting for two or three weeks. It is expected that an announcement of whether this plan will go ahead will be made on Monday and could come into force on as soon as next Friday. He also told the media that there would be new national restrictions after the lockdown to take us up until Christmas.

- **Updated Guidance on Singing and Dancing**

The Primary Guidance for restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services on how to operate in a Covid Safe manner has been updated to include new guidance on background music, singing and dancing. The new guidance on this states that:

All venues should ensure that steps are taken to mitigate the increased risk of virus transmission associated with aerosol production from raised voices, such as when speaking loudly or singing loudly, particularly in confined and poorly ventilated spaces. This includes, but is not limited to, lowering the volume of background music, and refraining from playing music or broadcasts that may encourage shouting, particularly if played at a volume that makes normal conversation difficult. Evidence on the most effective steps that can be taken to limit the transmission of the virus continues to be regularly reviewed. This guidance may be updated in the future in response to changing scientific understanding.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>

- **Updated Visa Guidance**

The Home Office's guidance on applying for visas has been updated regarding the family and private visa concession and loss of income caused by coronavirus. On loss of income the guidance now states that:

If you've experienced a loss of income due to coronavirus up to 1 January 2021, we will consider employment income for the period immediately before the loss of income, provided the minimum income requirement was met for at least 6 months immediately before the date the income was lost. If your salary has reduced because you're furloughed, we will take account of your income as though you're earning 100% of your salary.

If you're self-employed, a loss of annual income due to coronavirus between 1 March 2020 and 1 January 2021 will usually be disregarded, along with the impact on employment income from the same period for future applications.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

- **Tax Free Shopping Oral Questions**

On 20th October there will be an oral questions session in the House of Lords on the financial impact on the retail and tourism sector of the decision to withdraw the VAT Retail Export scheme led by Lord Vaizey of Didcot. The session will start sometime after 12 noon.

- **Updated Guidance on Special Religious Services and Gatherings**

The guidance on special religious services and gathering has been updated to take into account the three new alert levels and to incorporate checklists on what people should do in celebrating events such as Xmas.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/special-religious-services-and-gatherings-covid-19-checklist>

- **National Weekly Report**

Here's a link to this week's PHE weekly national Influenza and COVID19 surveillance report. It contains a wealth of information on Covid cases across the UK in different demographics but one of the more interesting series of graphs are graphs 16-20 that show the number of Covid incidents in different settings. This shows that not only is the number of incidents in restaurants very low (20-25 per week), they have remained stable at this level for six weeks now.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927142/Weekly_Flu_and_COVID-19_report_w42.pdf

- **The R Number**

The latest R number figures have been published and the range for the UK is 1.3-1.5, while the growth rate range for the UK is +4% to +7% per day. This is slightly down on last week where the comparable R number range was 1.2-1.5 and the growth rate range was +4% to +9% per day

Interestingly the region showing the fastest rate of growth in the South West at +6% to +10%

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk>

Visitor Economy Working Group (VEWG) – 16 October Update

Business Meetings in Local COVID Alert Level High and Very High areas

Currently venues can host business meetings for up to 30 people in high and very high alert level areas.

Businesses should find out if additional measures apply in their area and if restrictions are in place for [Local Alert Level: Very High](#) areas.