

TIER UPDATE 19 October 2020

National coronavirus “fire-break” to be introduced in Wales on Friday

Today the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, gave a press conference regarding to COVID-19, where he [announced a “fire-break”](#) which will start at 18:00 on Friday 23 October and end on Monday 9 November. It will apply to everyone living in Wales and will replace the local restrictions which are in force in some parts of the country.

- People must stay at home, except for very limited purposes, such as for exercise
- People must work from home wherever possible
- People must not visit other households or meet other people they do not live with either indoors and outdoors
- No gatherings will be allowed outdoors, such as Halloween or fireworks/Bonfire night or other organised activities
- All non-food retail, hospitality businesses, including cafes, restaurants and pubs (unless they provide take-away or delivery services), close contact services, such as hairdressers and beauticians, and events and tourism businesses, such as hotels must close
- Community centres, libraries and recycling centres will be required to close
- Face coverings must be worn in indoor public spaces, which remain open, including on public transport and in taxis.

During this time:

- Adults living alone or single parents will be able to join with one other household for support
- Primary and special schools will re-open as normal after half-term
- Secondary schools will re-open after the half-term for children in years seven and eight and most vulnerable children. Pupils will be able to come in to take exams but other pupils will continue their learning from home for an extra week
- Universities will provide a blend of in-person and online learning
- NHS and health services will continue to operate
- Local parks, playgrounds and outdoor gyms will remain open.

Businesses affected by the firebreak will be supported with a new £300 million fund, which will open next week:

- Every business covered by the small business rates relief will receive a £1,000 payment.
- Small and medium-sized retail, leisure and hospitality businesses, which have to close will receive a one-off payment of up to £5,000.
- There will also be additional discretionary grants and support for smaller businesses, which are struggling.
- The £80 million fund announced last week to help businesses develop in the longer term, will be increased to £100 million, which includes £20 million ring-fenced for tourism and hospitality.

Businesses will also be able to access the support available through the existing Job Retention Scheme or the new expanded Job Support Scheme.

An overview can be found on the Welsh Government website: <https://gov.wales/national-coronavirus-fire-break-to-be-introduced-in-wales-on-friday>

Government updates

- Update to [guidance](#) for those who work in performing arts in England on thinking about risk and managing performances.
- Update to guidance for [small marriages and civil partnerships](#) in England to reflect the local COVID alert levels

Industry updates:

Cathay Pacific today announced it expects to operate approximately 10% of their pre-pandemic passenger flight capacity for the rest of 2020 and under 50% for overall 2021.

COVID-19 Situation update 19 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 – 19 OCTOBER

- **Wales Lockdown**

A couple of resources for you

- Here is the FAQ on the restrictions which confirms that tourism-related travel to/from and within Wales is not allowed and that tourism accommodation businesses are required to close - <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-circuit-break-frequently-asked-questions#section-53253>
- And here is a link to the Welsh Government web page regarding support for businesses impacted by the lockdown - <https://gov.wales/business-and-employers-coronavirus>

- **Ask a Minister a Question About Coronavirus**

Here is something of an opportunity - the Government is inviting people to ask questions about Coronavirus. What makes it a particularly interesting opportunity is that the government will not be involved in choosing questions – this will be done by an independent polling organisation - and the minister answering the questions will not see the questions in advance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ask-a-minister-a-question-about-coronavirus>

- **Finding Financial Support**

The Government has updated its online tool to help employers and the self-employed find out what financial support is available to them and how to access it in light of all the recent changes. This tool can be used by businesses in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and provides information on eligibility for loans, tax relief and cash grants.

<https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder>