

## Local COVID alert levels (England)

Please note this is a working document.

Local COVID alert levels set out information for local authorities, residents and workers about what to do and how to manage the outbreak in their area. The below information covers what you can and cannot do if you live, work or travel in each local COVID alert level. Currently it appears zoos and aquariums do not need to shut unless additional interventions in consultation with local authorities are agreed for those in the Very High tier, but you will need to speak to your LA to confirm this. Find out more about specific local restrictions [here](#).

A [postcode checker](#) on GOV.UK shows which alert level applies in each area and the NHS COVID-19 app will also direct people to this information. These measures will be kept under constant review, including a four-week sunset clause for interventions in “very high” areas. Please note, the below table indicates the changes when stepping up a tier – some restrictions from previous tiers continue to apply in the higher ones, such as the wearing of face coverings in mandatory areas.

The PM also confirmed that the government will provide Local Authorities across England with around £1 billion of new financial support.

More information can be found [here](#).

<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>
<p>This is for areas where national restrictions continue to be in place. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• zoos and aquariums can continue to operate, in a COVID-secure manner following the <a href="#">guidance</a>.</li> <li>• groups of visitors must not be larger than 6, indoors or outdoors (<u>other than where specific exemptions apply</u>)</li> <li>• in licensed premises, food and drink must be ordered from, and served at, a table. Businesses must take reasonable steps to ensure that the customer remains seated whilst consuming food on the premises.</li> <li>• all indoor and outdoor hospitality must close between 10pm and 5am unless selling food for consumption off the premises through a delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through</li> </ul>	<p>This is for areas with a higher level of infections. This means <i>on top of</i> restrictions in alert level medium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• indoors (including in shops and restaurants), any group of visitors must be from a single household or support bubble.</li> <li>• outdoors, groups of visitors must not be larger than 6 (<u>other than where specific exemptions apply</u>)</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p>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 <a href="#">check the specific rules in your area</a>.</p> <p>At a minimum, this means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any group of visitors must be from a single household or support bubble.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• schools and universities remain open</li> <li>• places of worship remain open, subject to the <a href="#">rule of 6</a></li> <li>• weddings and funerals can go ahead with <a href="#">restrictions on numbers of attendees</a></li> <li>• exercise classes and organised sport can continue to take place outdoors, or indoors if the <a href="#">rule of 6</a> is followed</li> </ul> <p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">wear a face covering in those areas where this is mandated</a></li> </ul> <p>You should continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• follow social distancing rules</li> <li>• work from home where you can effectively do so</li> <li>• when travelling, plan ahead or avoid busy times and routes. Walk or cycle if you can</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Find out more about the measures that apply in medium alert level areas to help reduce the spread of COVID-19</a></p> <p>For the medium tier only, you can also read more about guidance for staff working at indoor and outdoor attractions <a href="#">here</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Find out more about the measures that apply in high alert level areas to help reduce the spread of COVID-19</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• places of worship remain open, but household mixing is not permitted</li> <li>• <a href="#">weddings</a> and <a href="#">funerals</a> can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees. However, wedding receptions are not allowed</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Find out more about the measures that apply in very high alert level areas to help reduce the spread of COVID-19</a></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restrictions preventing the sale of alcohol in hospitality or closing all hospitality (except takeaway and delivery)</li> <li>• closing indoor and outdoor entertainment venues and tourist attractions</li> </ul>
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