
To: Health & Well-being Test & Trace Sub Group Date: 2nd November 2020

Subject: Local COVID alert levels

The purpose of this briefing note is to summarise the new local COVID alert levels including details of restrictions at each tier and process for entering/moving between tiers. The new three-level COVID alert system has been designed to simplify the approach to deciding what level of restrictions are required in which local authority areas in order to manage further spread and reduce rate of infection.

The new system includes three levels or tiers of restriction.

Tier 1: Medium alert level

In these areas national restrictions remain in place and are unchanged from those previously advised. Details of national restrictions can be found [here](#).

Tier 2: High alert level

In these areas, all national restrictions remain in place and in addition residents:

- are not permitted to socialise with anybody outside of their household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place (note: this is a change to existing local lockdown measures which do not allow socialising in private outdoor spaces, i.e. gardens but allows non-household mixing in other outdoor setting, e.g. pubs/restaurants).
- Childcare bubbles are permitted for those under 14 years
- can only partake in indoor exercise or sporting activity if they can avoid mixing with those outside their household/support bubble (exceptions for youth and disability sport)
- should look to reduce the number of journeys they make, where possible

There are severally locally authority areas which currently have local lockdown restrictions in place which are being categorised as tier 2; neighbouring authorities in this tier include: Birmingham, Sandwell, Solihull, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Leicester and Oadby/Wigston.

Tier 3: Very high alert level

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. At a minimum and in addition to all tier 1 and tier 2 restrictions:

- residents 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
- 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
- places of worship remain open, but mixing with people outside household/support bubble is not permitted
- wedding receptions are not allowed
- travelling outside the very-high alert level area you are living in or entering a very-high alert level area which you don't live in, should be avoided other than for things like:
 - work, education or youth services
 - to meet caring responsibilities
 - if you are travelling through as part of a longer journey

Only local authorities within the Liverpool City Region have currently been categorised as tier 3 alert level.

Alert level triggers

No updated or additional guidance on how these alert levels are assigned to each local authority has been produced. In the absence of any additional documentation, decisions on alert levels will be made by central government and local authorities using the [contain framework](#), which was published in August.

In terms of timeframe for escalation or de-escalation between tiers:

- Local authorities at tier 1 will be reviewed every 28 days
- Local authorities at tier 2 will be reviewed every 14 days
- Categorisation of a local authority as tier 3 will expire after 28 days and extended only following review

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