

New three-tier system of restrictions introduced across England

The Government has published information on the new local [Covid alert levels](#) introduced this week across England, outlining what they mean, why they are being introduced and what the different levels are.

- Tier 1: Local COVID alert level: medium - This is for areas where national restrictions continue to be in place.
- Tier 2: Local COVID alert level: high - This is for areas with a higher level of infections where some additional restrictions are in place.
- Tier 3 - Local COVID alert level: very high - 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.

On the first day of the new three-tier system being in place, the only area to be classed as Tier 3 is the [Liverpool City Region](#), which includes Liverpool, Knowsley, Wirral, St Helens, Sefton and Halton.

A [full list of areas](#) and where they are classified has been published online.

Those in [Wales](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and [Scotland](#) should check their devolved nation's website for local restrictions.

Online resources to communicate the restrictions that apply in your area

The Government has published a [suite of graphical posters](#) for businesses to display to help communicate the rules in your area following the introduction of the new three-tier Covid alert system.

The Government has also published a [postcode checker](#) enabling people across England to easily check what the local restrictions are in the areas they live, work or visit.

There are different restrictions in each of the devolved nations, so those in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) should check the information on the relevant websites.

Deferring your self-assessment tax payment

[Guidance](#) has been updated advising those who are self-employed to check what needs to be done after 31 July 2020 if you chose to defer your second payment on account for the 2019 to 2020 tax year.

Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme

Those who have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate on or after 28 September 2020, are under a legal obligation to do so, and could be eligible for a £500 Test and Trace Support Payment. [Guidance](#) is available setting out who can claim support and explains how to apply.

New hotline launched to combat Covid-related fraud

Fraudsters are reported to have been targeting Covid stimulus schemes so in response, the Government has collaborated with the independent charity Crimestoppers to [launch a hotline](#) to help combat the threat.

Anybody can now call a new Covid Fraud Hotline (0800 587 5030) anonymously and free of charge to report suspected fraudulent activity.

Guidance updated on safer travel for passengers and operators

The Government has updated its [guidance for passengers](#), encouraging people to walk or cycle, and where this is not possible, to use public transport or drive to help control the spread of coronavirus.

Those travelling are being asked to:

- Work from home where possible
- check your local COVID alert level before traveling
- observe social contact rules as applicable to your local COVID alert level
- keep your distance when you travel, where possible
- wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- avoid the busiest routes, as well as busy times like the rush hour
- download the NHS COVID-19 app before you travel, if possible, and checking in where you see official NHS COVID-19 QR code posters

[Guidance for operators](#) has also been updated, including guidance on how a [coronavirus risk assessment](#) can be undertaken.

New guidance for the most vulnerable is tailored to level of risk

The Government has [announced](#) that those classed as clinically extremely vulnerable in England will receive new guidance to help them reduce their risk from coronavirus, tailored to where they live. The group includes those with specific health conditions, certain cancers and organ transplant recipients.

These additional precautions are intended to ensure an extra layer of protection for those most vulnerable, specifically adapted to people's locations and level of risk. Employers may have employees within this category and if so are encouraged to read the [guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#).