

Tier 3 FAQs:

Summary:

From Wednesday, December 2, the government has confirmed that Bolton will be in the Tier 3 (Very High Alert) level of coronavirus restrictions.

These measures will be reviewed regularly.

Under Tier 3 restrictions:

- Do not meet indoors with anybody unless you live with them or they are part of [your support bubble](#)
- Do not meet in a group of more than six in outdoor spaces such as parks
- Hospitality venues will be closed but can operate takeaway and delivery services

However:

- Schools, colleges, and the university remain open
- Essential and non-essential retail will open
- Hairdressers, salons and beauty services can resume
- Gyms, leisure centres, community centres, dance studios, golf courses and swimming pools can reopen (but classes/group events should not take place apart from the exemptions outlined below)
- Household waste and recycle centres will be open with [additional precautions](#)
- [Libraries will remain open](#) for order and collect services, and essential computer usage
- Places of worship remain open and communal worship can resume
- [Bolton Market remains open](#) from 9am, each Fri, Sat, Tues & Thurs

Please remember:

- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds
- Wear a face covering when required
- Maintain social distance of 2 metres

Further information

If you have a question or would like further information please email covidenquiries@bolton.gov.uk.

If you have concerns that a business is not following government regulations, report breaches to Bolton Council by e-mailing environmentalhealthcovidinbox@bolton.gov.uk

If you have concerns people are meeting up against the rules, report breaches to Greater Manchester Police using the [online reporting tool](#).

Meeting family and friends

From Wednesday, December 2, the government has confirmed that Bolton will be in the Tier 3 (Very High Alert) level of coronavirus restrictions. In the meantime the previous national measures apply.

Under Tier 3 restrictions:

- you must not meet socially indoors or in most outdoor places with anybody you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble, this includes in any private garden or at most outdoor venues
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in some other outdoor public spaces, including parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, a public garden, grounds of a heritage site or castle, or a sports facility – this is called the ‘rule of 6’

Sport and recreation

- organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue, however higher-risk contact activity should not take place
- organised indoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes cannot take place indoors. There are exceptions for indoor disability sport, sport for educational purposes and supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s
- there should be no public attendance at spectator sport or indoor performances
- elite sport events may continue to take place without spectators
- large outdoor events (performances and shows) should not take place, with the exception of drive-in events

Meeting in larger groups

Larger gatherings are permitted under the following exemptions:

- as part of a single household, or a [support bubble](#)
- for work or providing voluntary or charitable services, including in other people’s homes
- for childcare, education or training – meaning education and training provided as part of a formal curriculum
- for supervised activities provided for children, including wraparound care (before and after-school childcare), groups and activities for under 18s, and children’s playgroups
- for formal support groups, and parent and child groups – up to 15 people aged 5 and older
- to allow contact between birth parents and children in care, as well as between siblings in care
- for arrangements where children do not live in the same household as both their parents or guardians
- for prospective adopting parents to meet a child or children who may be placed with them
- for birth partners
- to attend a funeral – with no more than 30 people present – or a commemorative event such as a wake for someone who has died – with no more than 15 people present
- to see someone who is terminally ill or at the end of life
- to attend a wedding or civil partnership – with no more than 15 people present
- to provide emergency assistance
- to avoid injury or illness, or to escape a risk of harm
- to fulfil a legal obligation, such as attending court or jury service
- to provide care or assistance to someone vulnerable or to provide respite for a carer
- to facilitate moving home

Work, education, and childcare

Going to work

To help contain the virus, everyone who can work effectively from home must do so. Where people cannot do so (for instance people who work in critical national infrastructure, construction or manufacturing) they should continue to travel to work/attend their workplace.

Public sector employees working in essential services, including education settings, should continue to go into work. The risk of transmission can be substantially reduced if [COVID-secure guidelines](#) are followed closely. Extra consideration should be given to those people at higher risk.

Going to school, college and university

The government will continue to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our young people and will not be closing schools, colleges or universities.

It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school. Schools have implemented a range of protective measures to make them safe.

Schools and colleges will be kept open so that children are able to keep progressing towards exams and the next stage of education or employment.

Students now have more time to prepare for their exams next year, as most AS, A levels and GCSEs will be held 3 weeks later to help address the disruption caused by the pandemic.

The government has published guidance for universities to ensure they have safety measures in place to minimise the spread of the virus. Universities and adult education settings should consider moving to increased levels of online learning where possible.

Childcare and children's activities

Parents will still be able to access some registered childcare and other childcare activities (including wraparound care) where reasonably necessary to enable parents to work, or for the purposes of respite care.

[Parents are able to form a childcare bubble](#) with another household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under. Some households will also be able to benefit from being in a [support bubble](#), which allows single adult households to join another household.

Early years settings can remain open, and some youth services may be able to continue, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.

How to report concerns

Think we can get rid of this page (info is already in "summary" section).

Christmas in Bolton

The government has [confirmed arrangements](#) for seeing family and friends over the festive period.

Between 23 and 27 December:

- you can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of people from no more than three households
- you can only be in one Christmas bubble
- you cannot change your Christmas bubble
- you can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble
- you can only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces
- you can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to [the rules in the tier where you are staying](#)
- you cannot meet someone in a private dwelling who is not part of your household or Christmas bubble

You should travel to meet those in your Christmas bubble and return home between the 23 and 27 December. Anyone travelling to or from Northern Ireland may travel on the 22 and 28 December.

Business and hospitality

All businesses and venues that are open are expected to follow [COVID-19 secure guidelines](#) to protect customers, visitors and workers.

In all tiers, the following businesses and venues can remain open:

- essential and non-essential retail, including indoor and outdoor markets and car boot sales
- certain leisure and sporting facilities such as gyms, sports courts and facilities, leisure centres, fitness and dance studios, golf courses, swimming pools, riding centres, outdoor playgrounds – subject to relevant [social contact rules](#) in each tier. Indoor group activities and classes should not take place at tier 3
- personal care and close contact services such as hairdressers and barbers, beauty salons, tattoo parlours, nail salons, spas and beauty services, massage parlours and tanning salons

Under Tier 3:

- hospitality settings, such as bars (including shisha venues), pubs, cafes and restaurants are closed – they are permitted to continue sales by takeaway, click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery services.
- accommodation such as hotels, B&Bs, campsites, and guest houses must close. There are several exemptions, such as for those who use these venues as their main residence, and those requiring the venues where it is reasonably necessary for work or education and training
- indoor entertainment and tourist venues must close. This includes:
 - indoor play centres and areas, including trampolining parks and soft play
 - casinos
 - bingo halls
 - bowling alleys
 - skating rinks
 - amusement arcades and adult gaming centres
 - laser quests and escape rooms
 - cinemas, theatres and concert halls
 - snooker halls

- indoor attractions at mostly outdoor entertainment venues must also close (indoor shops, through-ways and public toilets at such attractions can remain open). This includes indoor attractions within:
 - zoos, safari parks, and wildlife reserves
 - aquariums, visitor attractions at farms, and other animal attractions
 - model villages
 - museums, galleries and sculpture parks
 - botanical gardens, biomes or greenhouses
 - theme parks, circuses, fairgrounds and funfairs
 - visitor attractions at film studios, heritage sites such as castles and stately homes
 - landmarks including observation decks and viewing platforms

What financial help and support is available for businesses?

The Chancellor has announced a variety of support for businesses to help them during this time.

There is a [grant scheme for businesses](#) that were required to close as a result of the national lockdown from 5 November 2020 or as a result of tier 3 restrictions imposed on Friday 23 October 2020 under the [Local restrictions support grant \(closed businesses\)](#).

Grants are [also available](#) for businesses that are not legally required to close but are severely impacted by the restrictions under tiers 2 and 3 (backdated to 5 August 2020) under the [Local restrictions support grant \(open businesses\)](#).

If your business has been required to close you only need to complete the application form once. Eligibility for both grants will be assessed at the same time. If you have already applied for the open or closed grant, you do not need to apply again.

More information about financial support is available from [Business Bolton](#).

The government has said that workers in any part of the UK can retain their job, even if their employer cannot afford to pay them, and be paid at least 80% of their salary (up to £2500 a month).

Employers small or large, charitable or non-profit are eligible and because more businesses will need to close, they will now be asked to pay just National Insurance and Pensions contributions for their staff until March 2021.

The Job Support Scheme will not be introduced until after Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ends.

The government has said businesses can get financial help through the:

- [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)
- [Job Support Scheme](#) (from 1st November)
- [New Style Employment and Support Allowance](#)

Protecting people at risk and care home visits

If you are over 60 or clinically vulnerable, you could be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. You:

- should be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise your contacts with others
- should continue to wash your hands carefully and more frequently than usual and maintain thorough cleaning of frequently touched areas in your home and/or workspace

Clinically vulnerable people are those who are:

- aged 70 or over (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (that is, anyone instructed to get a flu jab each year on medical grounds):
 - chronic (long-term) mild to moderate respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
 - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
 - chronic kidney disease
 - chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
 - chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS) or cerebral palsy
 - diabetes
 - a weakened immune system as the result of certain conditions or medicines they are taking (such as steroid tablets)
 - being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
 - pregnant

There is a further group of people who are defined, also on medical grounds, as [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) (CEV) to coronavirus – that is, people with specific serious health conditions.

Over this period, the government is advising the CEV to work from home. If you cannot work from home, you are advised not to go to work and may be eligible for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) or Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

You are encouraged to stay at home as much as possible but are encouraged to go outside for exercise. The government will write to everybody who is clinically extremely vulnerable to set out detailed advice while the new restrictions are in place.

Visiting relatives in care homes

The government [has issued updated guidance](#) on care home residents to receiving COVID secure visits from family and friends during the national lockdown. Arrangements will vary depending on the facilities available and could include the use of screens, visiting pods, or window visits.

In Greater Manchester (including Bolton) [arrangements are in place](#) to allow window visits or visiting pods. Care homes are asked to complete a risk assessment developed by Greater Manchester Directors of Public Health and these will be reviewed before visits can commence.

Travel, moving home, places of worship, and ceremonies

Travel

- walk or cycle where possible, plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes when travelling

- you can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, but should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible
- avoid travelling to other parts of the UK, including for overnight stays other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities. You can travel through other areas as part of a longer journey
- for international travel see the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office [travel advice](#) for your destination and the [travel corridors list](#)

Moving home

You can still move home. People outside your household or [support bubble](#) should not help with moving house unless absolutely necessary.

Estate and letting agents and removals firms can continue to work and people looking to move home can continue to undertake viewings.

Follow the [national guidance on moving home safely](#), which includes advice on social distancing and [wearing a face covering](#).

Places of worship

Communal worship can now resume, subject to relevant social contact rules.

Places of worship remain open, but you must not attend with or socialise with anyone outside of your household or support bubble while you are there, unless a legal exemption applies.

Ceremonies:

[Weddings](#) and [funerals](#) can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees:

- 15 people can attend wedding ceremonies, wedding receptions are not allowed,
- 30 people can attend funeral ceremonies, 15 people can attend linked commemorative events

Testing for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

KEEP THE SAME

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