

## Political Update

- **Changes to Alert Areas** - Eight areas have moved from Tier 1 (medium) to Tier 2 (high) today.
  - **London, Essex and Elmbridge** - will move from Medium Alert to [High Alert](#) at Midnight on Friday. This means that household will be prevented from mixing inside although they are still allowed to mix outside in line with the Rule of Six. There are no business closures but households will not be able to meet in indoor venues such as pubs and restaurants. Travel outside the area is allowed for holiday purposes but people cannot do so in a way where they stay with another household and, with the forthcoming restriction in Wales, people from London will not be able to travel into Wales on holiday.
  - We have had clarification that Tier 2 in London applies to all 32 London Boroughs and City of London and that the Rule of 6 continues to apply outside.
  - UKHospitality has written to the Mayor of London urging him to work with us on securing a meaningful package of support for those businesses impacted by the restrictions.
- **Barrow-in-Furness, York, north-east Derbyshire, Erewash and Chesterfield** - Matt Hancock has informed parliament that these areas will also enter High Alert area status from Midnight on Friday
- **Other areas** - Negotiations are continuing with other areas around moves into Tier 3 (very high). It was expected that Matt Hancock would announce **Greater Manchester** would be moved from High Alert to Very High Alert status, however Greater Manchester's leaders are resisting and unless they get sufficient business support. Discussions are continuing on this. **Lancashire** is in a similar position.
- **Updated List of High and Very High Alert Areas in England** - Following the changes update on areas moving to the High Alert level, the Government has updated the [areas lists](#) under all three alert levels which includes a list of sub-regions.

It is important to note that the Government's [postcode tracker](#) that details the Covid Alert status of areas only states the current status of an area and will not indicate the changes announced today until they have come into force.

- **Tier 3 update**
  - The legal regulations implementing Tier 3 restrictions have been published and confirm that restaurants, pubs, bars and cafes are required to close but may choose to reopen if they either do not sell alcohol or only sell alcohol as part of a substantial table meal or offering takeaway and delivery only. This means that businesses may choose not to reopen if it would not be viable to do so and can access the enhanced JSS for staff who

are not working as a result of closure. Those working can access the standard JSS (min 33% working hours with employer top up to 55% through paid work or hours not worked & 22% Government top up).

- The Government has also clarified the travel restrictions accompanying a Tier 3 classification. The only guests which may be accommodated are key workers, those travelling for work or professional sports, journalism or funerals. Customers are encouraged not to travel for leisure as the guidance accompanying Tier 3 state that people are not allowed to travel into or out of the Liverpool City Region. Accommodation providers are encouraged to cancel and refuse leisure bookings from those outside the region, but there is no legal requirement to do so. If a tier 3 classification takes effect during a stay, there is no requirement for a hotel guest to leave.
- **Tier 2 Update**
  - Business Events and Meetings of up to 30 are still permitted, but we are clarifying whether these must take place in separate meeting rooms or can take place in discrete public areas – our assumption is that the exemption would apply to an informal meeting or work related event.
  - Government has confirmed that the legal obligation not to allow mixed households rests primarily with the guest but it is good practice for businesses to ask whether groups are from the same household and a refusal log demonstrates due diligence if they say that they are not. There is no obligation to check the veracity of customer statements.
  - Although there is advisory guidance to consumers in Tier 2 not to undertake unnecessary journeys, government has confirmed that they may continue to take holidays and overnight stays for leisure and there is no obligation on accommodation providers to check this.

#### **Wales Update**

- Following yesterday's [announcement of travel restrictions](#) to Wales from high or very high alert areas as of Friday 16 October at 6pm, the Welsh First Minister, told BBC Breakfast this morning that holiday providers in Wales should not accept half-term bookings from people in areas of the UK with high levels of coronavirus.
- It is thought that guests already staying at a premise should leave as soon as practically possible from when the restriction comes into force, the onus will be on them to follow the rules. In addition, confirmation as to whether staff from a high or very high area, that are not able to work

from home, will still be able to travel for work is expected shortly.

- The Police Federation in Wales has been quoted saying that the rules could be "unenforceable".