

# Kent County Council Coronavirus Update

This guide provides information on the national and local support available to help residents, businesses and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations respond to the impact of the Coronavirus (Covid-19). The guide also includes a summary of the latest Government announcements, alongside information on KCC's website ([kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk)). The guide is update regularly and, is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the resources, funding and advice being issued, therefore it links to other sources of information where available.

## NEW COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, [gave a press conference on Saturday, 31 October 2020](#) to announce new Covid-19 restrictions. The Prime Minister also made statements to the House of Commons [on Monday, 2 November](#) and [on Wednesday, 4 November](#), and held a further [press conference on Wednesday, 5 November](#).

**From Thursday, 5 November, new “national measures” will be in place until Wednesday, 2 December.** The Prime Minister has emphasised that the new measures are not a return “to the full-scale lockdown of March and April”. **These measures have been announced because the Covid-19 infection rate continues to increase across the country. The message is - “Stay at home, protect the NHS, and save lives”.**

**From 2 December, Government “intend to return to a tiered system on a local and regional basis according to the latest data and trends”.** For the time being, the regional and local approach to tackling the virus has been suspended. **Prior to 2 December, MPs will vote on what will replace these measures. “The UK Government and the devolved administrations are working together on a joint approach to the Christmas period”.**

This update comprises:

- [The new measures](#), including:
  - [The Clinically Vulnerable & Clinically Extremely Vulnerable](#)
  - [Visiting care homes](#)
  - [Which venues will stay open & what activities can continue](#)
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- [The context for the changes in restrictions](#)
- [Face coverings – updated guidance](#)
- [The basics of Covid-19 infection control](#)
- [A list of Government guidance](#)

## THE NEW MEASURES

- **You are required to “stay at home”.** In general, you must not meet people socially. You should minimise time spent outside your home. When around other people, stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household (meaning the people you live with), or your support bubble. Where this is not possible, stay 1 metre apart with extra precautions (e.g. wearing a face covering). **You must also not meet socially indoors with family or friends, unless they are part of your household, or they are part of your support bubble.**
- **You can “only leave home for specific reasons”. This includes:**
  - **For necessary purposes:**
    - **to obtain or access supplies and/or services from businesses and services**, for yourself, your household, or a vulnerable person.
    - **to access banking services.**
    - **to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place** - with the people you live with, with your support bubble or, when on your own, with 1 person from another household. Outdoor exercise and recreation is encouraged, with no limit on the time allowed outside. Children under school age, and children and adults who are dependent on constant care, such as those with severe disabilities, do not count towards the two-person limit on meetings outside.  
Outdoor public places include:
      - Parks
      - Beaches
      - Countryside
      - Public gardens – you cannot meet people in a private garden, unless you live with them or have formed a support bubble with them..
      - Allotments.
      - Outdoor playgrounds
    - **to attend a place of worship.**
    - **to attend an event commemorating Remembrance Sunday or Armistice Day**, provided they are held outside, and observe social distancing”. Guidance has been published on [Local authority preparations for Remembrance Sunday](#).
    - **to fulfil legal obligations, or to carry out activities related to buying, selling, letting or renting a property.**
    - **to visit a member or members of a linked household** (known as a ‘bubble’). “Single adult households can still form exclusive support bubbles with one other household”.
    - **to collect takeaway food or goods that have been ordered for collection.**
    - **to recycle or dispose of waste.**
  - **For work.** Where your place of work remains open and where you cannot work from home. Where it is necessary to work in other people’s homes - for example, for nannies, cleaners or tradespeople - you can do so. Public sector employees working in essential services, including education settings, should continue to go into work.
  - **For the purposes of education and training**, where this is not provided online. You can leave home for education (formal provision, rather than extracurricular classes such as music or drama tuition), training, registered childcare and children’s activities that are necessary to allow parents/carers to work, seek work, or undertake education or training. Parents can still take their children to school, and

people can continue existing arrangements for contact between parents and children where they live apart.

- **To look after children** (for example, to take them to school, or to see their siblings, or to meet a prospective adopter). “Children will still be able to move between homes if their parents are separated”. You can leave home to provide informal childcare for children 13 and under as part of a childcare bubble.
- **For emergency assistance, and to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm** - such as domestic abuse.
- **For accessing critical public services and services provided by voluntary or charitable services.**
- **So that elite athletes can train or compete.**
- **You can leave home for any medical reason**, including to get a COVID-19 test, appointments and emergencies, to visit someone who is giving birth or dying, to visit someone in a care home (if permitted under care home guidance), hospice, hospital, to accompany them to a medical appointment.
- **To give respite care, or support to other people, or to access it yourself.** You can leave home to provide care for vulnerable people, or to attend a support group.
- **As a volunteer.**
- **To visit a relative or friend on their deathbed**, including if for their wedding, **or to attend their funeral.**
- **To provide for the welfare of pets.**
- **To visit a family member or friend in prison.**

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## THE CLINICALLY VULNERABLE & CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

### Clinically Vulnerable

- If you are clinically vulnerable 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 Extremely Vulnerable

- The Government has published new [guidance on shielding and protecting people who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable from Covid-19](#)
- The guidance includes the following:
  - **Socialising:** stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors to exercise or attend health appointments. You can exercise with those they live with or in their support bubble.
  - **Work:** if you cannot work from home, you should not attend work. You may be eligible for [Statutory Sick Pay, Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit or the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.](#)
  - **School:** most children originally on the shielded patient list no longer need to be and therefore can still attend school. If parents are unsure, contact your child’s usual GP or hospital clinician to check whether they are considered Clinically Extremely Vulnerable.

- **Going outside:** avoid all non-essential travel, including visiting any shops or pharmacies. Continue to travel to hospital and GP appointments unless told otherwise by your doctor.
- You will be able to use an online service which will help you request priority access to supermarket delivery slots and to inform your council you need help.
- NHS Volunteer Responders can also help with a regular phone call, and transport to and from medical appointments.
- Letters will be sent to all those identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, providing them with further details.
- Councils will put in place a new local shielding framework.
- Government is giving County Councils and Unitary Councils in England £14 per clinically extremely vulnerable person in their area. This will be used to provide support, such as access to food deliveries and signposting to local support of befriending services, to the most at risk and enable them to stay at home as much as possible.

[Further information](#)

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## VISITING RELATIVES IN CARE HOMES

- **The Government said that new guidance for care home visits will be published. This will set out clear principles for how visits are conducted.**
- Guidance will say that care home residents in England should be allowed to receive visits from their family and friends if -
  - Visits comply with COVID-secure measures. For example, ensuring social distancing and using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are observed.
  - Care home providers, families and local professionals will work together to find the right balance between the benefits of visiting on wellbeing and quality of life, and the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to social care staff and vulnerable residents.
- The Government is also working with providers to help them communicate to families and help them plan visits in a way that minimises the wider risks.
- A new national programme for weekly testing of professionals who regularly visit care homes will be rolled out in the coming weeks.

[Further information](#)

[The existing guidance on Covid-19 and admission and care of people in care homes](#)

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## WHICH VENUES WILL STAY OPEN & WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN CONTINUE

- **Schools, colleges, universities.** The Prime Minister said that “my priority, our priority, remains keeping people in education - so childcare, early years settings, schools, colleges and universities will all remain open”. If you live at university, you must not move back and forward between your permanent home and student home during term time. You should only return home at the end of term for Christmas. Government will publish further guidance on the end of term.
- **The majority of public services will continue, and you will be able to leave home to visit them. These include:**

- **The NHS and medical services like GPs and dentists.** Government are supporting the NHS to safely carry out urgent and non-urgent services. The Government emphasises that it is vital anyone who thinks they need any kind of medical care comes forward and seeks help.
- **Jobcentre Plus sites**
- **Courts and probation services**
- **Civil Registrations Offices**
- **Passport and Visa Services**
- **Services provided to victims**
- **Waste or Recycling Centres**
- **The following hospitality venues are exempted from closure requirements:**
  - **cafes or canteens at a hospital, care home or school, or provider of post-16 education or training.**
  - **canteens at criminal justice accommodation or an establishment intended for use for naval, military or air force purposes**
  - **Venues serving food for voluntary or charitable purposes.**
  - **Workplace canteens where there is no other practical alternative for workers.**
- **Food retailers**, including food markets, supermarkets, convenience stores and corner shops. Supermarkets will be able to sell non-essential goods. Essential retail should follow COVID-secure guidelines to protect customers, visitors and workers.
- **Non-essential retail for delivery to customers and via click-and-collect.**
- **Off licenses and licensed shops selling alcohol** (including breweries).
- **Pharmacies** (including non-dispensing pharmacies) and **chemists**.
- **Newsagents**
- **Construction** - the Housing Secretary, Executive Chairman of the Home Builders Federation and Chief Executive of the Federation of Master Builders have [written to the housing industry](#) to make clear that house building – and its supply chains that support it - should continue working securely. **This includes hardware stores and builder's merchants staying open.**
- **Buying, selling, and renting a home** can continue, in a COVID-secure way. Estate and letting agents can operate, show homes and sales suites can remain open and property viewings, mortgage valuations and surveys can take place. The Government has published [guidance on moving home](#).
- **Home repairs and maintenance can continue.** There is Government [guidance on working in other people's homes](#) and the FMB has [published guidance on carrying out building work](#). The Government has also [published guidance on building safety remediation work](#).
- **Petrol stations.**
- **Car repair and MOT services.**
- **Bicycle shops.**
- **Taxi or vehicle hire businesses.**
- **Banks; Building Societies; Credit Unions; short term loan providers; savings clubs; cash points;** currency exchange offices, transmit money (or any representation of money) by any means or cash cheques which are made payable to customers.
- **Post offices.**
- **Funeral directors.**
- **Laundrettes and dry cleaners.**

- **Dental services, opticians, audiology services, chiropody, chiropractors, osteopaths and other medical or health services, including services relating to mental health.**
- **Veterinary surgeons and pet shops.**
- **Agricultural supplies shop.**
- **Storage and distribution facilities**, including delivery drop off or collection points, where the facilities are in the premises of a business
- **Car parks.**
- **Public toilets.**
- **Garden centres.**
- **Businesses can continue to provide goods or services to the homeless.**
- **Outdoor playgrounds.** [Guidance on Covid-19 and managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms](#)
- **Some venues are allowed to remain open for specific exempt activities, like childcare and support groups.** Support groups that are essential to deliver in person can continue with up to 15 participants, where formally organised to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support. This includes support to victims of crime, people in drug and alcohol recovery, new parents and guardians, people with long-term illnesses, people facing issues relating to their sexuality or gender, and those who have suffered bereavement.
- **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.
- **Early years settings can remain open.** Parents can form a childcare bubble with another household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under.
- **Some youth services**, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.
- **Elite sport.**
- **Funerals can be attended by a maximum of 30 people**, and it is advised that only close friends and family attend. Linked ceremonial events such as stone settings and ash scatterings can also continue with up to 15 people in attendance. Anyone working is not included. Social distancing should be maintained between people who do not live together or share a support bubble.
- **Library, Archive & Registration services:** In Kent a Select and Collect and public PC/Wi-fi offer will be offered at the 13 COVID-secure libraries listed below. PC use can be booked for 1 hour. Other libraries will be closed to the public.
  - Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope
  - Ashford Gateway
  - Dartford Library
  - Tonbridge Library
  - Sittingbourne Library
  - Kent History and Library Centre (Maidstone)
  - Gravesend Library
  - Southborough Library
  - Broadstairs Library
  - Folkestone Library
  - Herne Bay Library
  - Sandgate Library
  - Deal Library

- **The Home Library Service** will continue with door stop delivery. The befriending service will be reinstated. The mobile library service will continue on a Select and Collect basis. The Postal Loan service will continue for the blind and partially sighted.
- **The Archive Search Room** will be closed and November bookings cancelled. All the virtual forms of the service will be available as well as remote enquiries and back office collection work at the Kent History and Library Centre.
- **Registrations** from libraries will continue to deliver face-to-face appointments in a COVID secure way to ensure we do not build-up a backlog. Death Registration will continue to be delivered over the phone.

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## WHICH VENUES AND ACTIVITIES WILL CLOSE FOR THE TIME-BEING

- **The following hospitality venues.** Hospitality will be restricted to providing food and drink for takeaway (before 10pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. In a change to guidance, alcohol can be pre-ordered via website, phone or text message. This can be delivered or collected provided you do not enter the premises.
  - **Restaurants**, including restaurants and dining rooms in hotels or members' clubs.
  - **Cafes**, including workplace canteens.
  - **Bars**, including bars in hotels or members' clubs.
  - **Social clubs**
  - **Public houses**
- **Cinemas**
- **Theatres**
- **Nightclubs, dance halls, discotheques** and any other venue which -
  - opens at night,
  - has a dance floor or other space for dancing by members of the public, and
  - provides music, whether live or recorded, for dancing.
- **Bingo halls**
- **Concert halls**
- **Museums and galleries**
- **Casinos**
- **Betting shops and adult gaming centres**
- **Personal care facilities - spas, nail, beauty salons, hair salons and barbers, tanning salons, tattoo and piercing parlours, massage parlours and non-medical acupuncture**
- **Sexual entertainment venues**
- **Skating rinks**
- **The following indoor facilities: dance studios, fitness studios, gyms, sports courts, swimming pools, bowling alleys, amusement arcades, playgrounds or soft play areas or other indoor leisure centres or facilities, including indoor games, recreation and entertainment venues.**
- **Circuses, funfairs and fairgrounds** (whether outdoors or indoors), **theme parks** and **adventure parks** and activities.
- **Outdoor sports centres or amenities**, including water sports, stables, shooting and archery venues, golf courses, driving ranges, outdoor gyms, outdoor swimming pools, water parks and aquaparks. While all adult and children's grassroots sports, youth sport will only be permitted in school.

- **Outdoor markets** (except for livestock markets, stalls selling food and any other retailer listed in Part 3).
- **Showrooms and other premises**, including outdoor areas, used for the sale or hire of caravans, boats or any vehicle which can be propelled by mechanical means, and car washes.
- **Auction houses** (except for auctions of livestock or agricultural equipment).
- **Model villages**
- **Visitor attractions at film studios**
- **Aquariums, zoos, safari parks, farms, wildlife centres** and any place where animals are exhibited to the public as an attraction.
- **Indoor attractions at visitor attractions such as -**
  - **botanical or other gardens, biomes or greenhouses**
  - **stately or historic homes, castles or other heritage sites**
  - **landmarks, including observation wheels or viewing platforms**
  - **sculpture parks**
- **Conference centres and exhibition halls**
- **Weddings, civil partnership ceremonies**, except in exceptional circumstances.
- **Places of Worship, unless they are being used for:**
  - **Funerals**
  - **Commemorative events celebrating the life of a person who has died**
  - **To broadcast acts of worship**, whether over the internet or as part of a radio or television broadcast
  - **Individual prayer**
  - **Formal childcare or where part of a school**
  - **Essential voluntary and public services**, such as blood donation or food banks or other support for the homeless or vulnerable people
  - **Other exempted activities such as some support groups**
  - **Childcare**
  - **To host any gathering which is permitted**
- **Crematoriums and burial ground must close to members of the public**, except –
  - for funerals or burials
  - commemorative events celebrating the life of a person who has died, or (c) to allow a person to pay respects to a member of their household, a family member or friend.
- **Holiday accommodation must close**, with the following exemptions -
  - A person may continue keep a premises open to provide accommodation for any person, who –
    - is unable to return to their main residence
    - uses that accommodation as their main residence
    - needs accommodation while moving house, or to attend a funeral
    - is isolating themselves from others as required by law
    - is an elite athlete, the coach of an elite athlete, or (in the case of an elite athlete who is a child), the parent of an elite athlete, and needs accommodation for the purposes of training or competition,
  - To provide accommodation - for any person who needs accommodation for the purposes of their work; for any child who requires accommodation for the purposes of education; for the purposes of a women's refuge or a vulnerable person's refuge; to provide accommodation or support services for the homeless; to provide



accommodation for any person who was staying in that accommodation immediately before these Regulations came into force.

- To host blood donation sessions
- For any purpose requested by the Secretary of State, or a local authority.
- **Community centres and halls must close**, except where they are used –
  - to provide essential voluntary activities or urgent public support services (including the provision of food banks or other support for the homeless or vulnerable people). blood donation sessions or support in an emergency)
  - for education or training
  - for support groups
  - for childcare, or supervised activities for children.

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## **INDOOR & OUTDOOR GATHERINGS**

- It is prohibited for more than two people to gather in a public outdoor place, and for two or more people to gather in all other places, unless an exception applies.
- There is an additional prohibition on organising a gathering of more than 30 people, which Government say is could be equivalent to an indoor rave.
- Gatherings organised by a business, a charity, a public body or a political body are not included in the offence where that body has taken the required precautions.
- The exceptions to the restrictions on gatherings include:
  - Where all people in the gathering are members of the same or linked household/s.
  - Where the gathering is reasonably necessary for certain critical activities – for example work, education, care, or moving house.
  - Discharging legal obligations or participating in legal proceedings.
  - Where the gathering takes place in criminal justice accommodation.
  - Participating in a support group.
  - Attending a birth, permitted marriage, funeral, commemorative event following a person's death or visiting a dying person.
  - Enabling elite athletes to train or compete.
  - Looking after children
  - For Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day events.

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## **ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS**

- **A fixed penalty notice may be issued by a Police Constable, Police Community Support Officer, or person designated by a local authority or the Secretary of State, to persons 18 or over whom they reasonably believe have committed an offence under the Regulations.**
- The amount of the fixed penalty notice is £200, reduced to £100 if paid within 14 days. If a person has already received a fixed penalty notice in relation to Covid-19, the amount of the fixed penalty is then £400 instead, doubling on each further repeat offence up to a maximum of £6,400 and there will be no discount for repeat offenders paying within 14 days.
- The amount of the fixed penalty for business restriction offences is £1,000, increasing for subsequent offences to a maximum of £10,000.
- The amount of the fixed penalty for the organising a gathering offences is £10,000.

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## SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES, SELF-EMPLOYED, INDIVIDUALS & COUNCILS

### Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)

- The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, [has announced](#) that the Coronavirus Job Retention (furlough Scheme (CJRS) will be extended until the end of March 2021. Government will “review the policy in January [2021] to decide whether economic circumstances are improving enough to ask employers to contribute more”.
- Employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500.
- Businesses will only be asked to cover National Insurance and employer pension contributions
- Claims can be made from 8am Wednesday 11 November.
- The employer must have made a PAYE Real Time Information (RTI) submission to HMRC between 20 March 2020 and 30 October 2020, notifying a payment of earnings for that employee.
- Employees that were employed and on the payroll on 23 September 2020 (the day before the Job Support Scheme announcement) who were made redundant or stopped working afterwards can be re-employed and claimed for. The employer must have made an RTI submission to HMRC from 20 March 2020 to 23 September 2020, notifying a payment of earnings for those employees.
- Full guidance will be published on Tuesday, 10 November.
- The Government will now not pay the Job Retention Bonus (JRB) in February 2021. As the purpose of the JRB was to encourage employers to keep people in work until the end of January 2021, the policy intent of the JRB falls away.

### [Further information](#)

### Support for the self-employed

- The UK-wide Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) self-employed individuals will be able to apply for 80% of their average trading profits for November.
- As SEISS grants are calculated over three months, the uplift for November to 80%, along with the 40% level of trading profits for December 2020 and January 2021, increases the total level of the third grant to 55% of trading profits. The maximum grant will increase to £5,160.
- The claims window is being brought forward from 14 December to 30 November. Thereafter, the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will be increased, with the third grant covering November to January calculated at 80% of average trading profits, up to a maximum of £7,500.
- To be eligible for the Grant Extension self-employed individuals, including members of partnerships, must:
  - have been previously eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme first and second grant (although they do not have to have claimed the previous grants)
  - declare that they intend to continue to trade and either:
  - are currently actively trading but are impacted by reduced demand due to coronavirus
  - were previously trading but are temporarily unable to do so due to coronavirus

### [Further information](#)

### **Welfare support for self-employed**

- The Minimum Income Floor (MIF) for self-employed Universal Credit claimants will remain suspended until the end of April 2021.

[Further information](#)

### **Guarantee loan schemes**

- Government plan to extend the application deadline for loan guarantee schemes – the Bounce Back Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, and Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme – to the end of January 2021.
- Government will also adjust the Bounce Back Loan Scheme rules to allow those businesses who have borrowed less than their maximum (i.e. the lower of £50,000 or less than 25% of their turnover) to top-up their existing loan. Businesses will be able to take-up this option from next week; they can make use of this option once.

[Further information](#)

### **Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) schemes**

- Business premises forced to close in England due to local or national restrictions will be eligible for grants worth up to £3,000 per month under the Local Restrictions Support Grant:
  - For properties with a rateable value of £15k or under, grants to be £1,334 per month, or £667 per two weeks.
  - For properties with a rateable value of between £15k-£51k grants to be £2,000 per month, or £1,000 per two weeks.
  - For properties with a rateable value of £51k or over grants to be £3,000 per month, or £1,500 per two weeks.
- Government are also providing funding for councils to support businesses in high-alert level areas (businesses in Tiers 2 and 3) which are not legally closed, but which are severely impacted by the restrictions on socialising. The funding councils will receive will be based on the number of hospitality, hotel, B&B, and leisure businesses in their area.
- Councils will receive a funding amount that will be the equivalent of:
  - For properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or under, grants of £934 per month.
  - For properties with a rateable value over £15,000 and below £51,000, grants of £1,400 per month.
  - For properties with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 and over, grants of £2,100 per month.

[Further information](#)

### **Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme - business grants**

- Councils will also receive £1.1 billion – distributed on the basis of £20 per head of population - for one-off discretionary payments to enable them to support businesses more broadly. Some of this funding has already been provided to local areas that entered into Tier 3. Councils can use this funding “at their discretion”.

[Further information](#)

## **Mortgage Holidays**

- Mortgage payment holidays will not end on Saturday, 31 October. Borrowers who have been impacted by Covid-19 and have not yet had a mortgage payment holiday will be entitled to a six month holiday, and those that have already started a mortgage payment holiday will be able to top up to six months without this being recorded on their credit file.

[Further information](#)

## **Payment holidays for consumer credit products**

- Payment holidays will also continue to be available for consumer credit products such as personal loans and car finance. Borrowers impacted by Covid-19 who have not yet taken a payment holiday on that product will be able to top up to 6 months without this being recorded on their credit file.
- Borrowers with high-cost short-term credit products such as payday loans will continue to be entitled to a maximum month payment holiday.

[Further information](#)

## **Funding for Contact Tracing, testing for hard-to-reach groups and communications**

- Up to £500 million will be provided to local councils for local public health initiatives for additional Contact Tracing, testing for hard-to-reach groups and communications. All County Councils and Unitary Councils are now entitled to the maximum of £8 per head of population from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), inclusive of what might already have been paid (including to District Councils and Combined Authorities in their area).

## **Rough sleeping funding**

- The Government has announced £15 million to provide accommodation for rough sleepers during Covid-19. The 'Protect Programme' will help areas that need additional support most during the restrictions and throughout winter.
- Areas with high numbers of rough sleepers will receive extra targeted support.
- Government will work with councils to prioritise those who are Clinically Vulnerable – this will continue throughout the winter until March 2021.
- To help prevent people being at risk of homelessness, bailiff enforcement action will not be permitted during the national restrictions or over the Christmas period.
- All councils are being asked to update their rough sleeping plans by the end of the year, providing an overview of their support for those sleeping rough. They are also being asked to carry out a rapid assessment of need for everyone they accommodate and to consider time limited interventions for those rough sleeping now or new to rough sleeping

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## **TRAVEL**

- People should avoid all non-essential travel by private or public transport.
- Essential travel includes, but is not limited to
  - Essential shopping
  - Travelling to work where your workplace is open or you cannot work from home

- Travelling to education and for caring responsibilities
- Hospital GP and other medical appointments or visits where you have had an accident or are concerned about your health.
- If you need to travel Government encourages you to reduce the number of journeys you make, walk or cycle where possible, or to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport.
- Overnight stays and holidays away from primary residences will not be allowed- including holidays in the UK and abroad. This includes staying in a second home or staying with anyone you do not live with or are in a support bubble with. There are specific exceptions, for example if you need to stay away from home (including in a second home) for work purposes.
- You must not travel if you are experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms, are self-isolating as a result of coronavirus symptoms, are sharing a household or support bubble with somebody with symptoms, or have been told to self-isolate after being contacted by NHS Test and Trace.
- If you need to use public transport, you should follow the [safer travel guidance](#). This includes the rules on wearing face masks and [advice on car sharing](#).

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## NON-COVID HEALTHCARE

- The Prime Minister has said that “unless your clinicians tell you otherwise, you should continue to use the NHS, get your scans, turn up for your appointments and pick up your treatments. If at all possible, we want you to continue to access these services, now and through the winter”.

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## TESTING

- The Prime Minister has said that Government plan an expansion “in the deployment of” “rapid turnaround tests. Tests that you can use yourself to tell whether or not you are infectious and get the result within ten to 15 minutes”.
- “Trials have already shown that we can help suppress” Covid-19 “in hospitals, schools and universities by testing large numbers of NHS workers, children, teachers and students”.
- “These tests, crucially, identify people who are infectious but do not have symptoms, allowing them immediately to self-isolate and stop the spread of the disease, and allowing those who are not infectious to continue as normal.”
- “The army has been brought in to work on the logistics and the programme will begin in a matter of days”.
- Government will work “with local communities, local government, Public Health Directors and organisations” in the rollout of these tests.
- From Friday, 6 November, a pilot will begin in Liverpool. 2,000 army personnel will help with logistics. The pilot will help to inform a blueprint for how mass testing can be achieved and how fast and reliable COVID-19 testing can be delivered at scale. [Further information](#).

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## CONTEXT FOR THE CHANGES IN RESTRICTIONS

**The new measures have been announced because the Covid-19 infection rate continues to increase across the country.** The Prime Minister has said that “the average number of new cases each day is now 22,398, that’s up from 9,716 a month earlier. There are now 12,320 patients in hospital, up from 2,602 a month earlier”. The Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Chris Whitty, has said that “If we do nothing, the inevitable result will mean these numbers will go up and they will eventually exceed the peak that we saw in spring of this year”. The Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance said that academics have concluded there is the “potential for this to be twice as bad as the first wave”.

In a scenario NHS England has forecast hospitals not being able to accept new patients by Christmas. Sir Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of the National Health Service in England, has said that “in many parts of the country” there are hospitals with more Covid-19 patients than during the first peak. He has said “We began early September with under 500 coronavirus patients in hospitals”, “By the beginning of October that had become 2,000. As of today that is just under 11,000. So, put another way, we’ve got 22 hospitals’ worth of coronavirus patients across England”. To put this into context, Steven said that compared to 11,000 covid-19 hospital patients, the NHS would, on average, have 3,000 patients for winter flu.

Professor Whitty also said that he is much “more optimistic as we approach spring”. Adding that the winter is the period is when respiratory viruses are more prevalent, but also that “the scientific effort that is going on now is unparalleled” and that “cumulatively” science will “get on top of this”. Sir Patrick Vallance added that vaccines are in “late stage clinical trials” and rapid testing is also due to be rolled out soon. The Prime Minister has said that a vaccine will be available in the “first quarter next year”.

[Papers published by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies \(SAGE\)](#), on Friday, 30 October, have revealed that the body estimated that by mid-October there were between 43,000 and 74,000 people being infected with Covid-19 daily in England. The report says - "This is significantly above the profile of the reasonable worst-case scenario, where the number of daily infections in England remained between 12,000-13,000 throughout October".

The [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) weekly infection survey](#), published on Friday, 30 October, reported that in the period 17 to 23 October 2020 an estimated 568,100 within the community population in England had Covid-19. This equates to around 1 in 100 people. There has been growth in all age groups over the past two weeks; older teenagers and young adults continue to have the highest current rates while rates appear to be steeply increasing among secondary school children. In the period 2 to 8 October 2020 an estimated 336,500 people in England had Covid-19. The highest COVID-19 infection rates continue to be seen in the North West, and Yorkshire and The Humber; rates also remain high for the North East but have now levelled off and there is now a larger gap with the other two northern regions.

The [latest interim findings](#) from the React-1 study by Imperial College Ipsos MORI, for the period 16 and 25 October, concludes that infections continue to rise across all age groups and all regions in England. 128 people per 10,000 were infected in England, up from 60 per 10,000. The virus was doubling every 9 days. Prevalence of infection was highest in the North West (2.3%), Yorkshire and the Humber (2.7%), North East (1.2%), East

Midlands (1.2% ), West Midlands (1.6% ), London (0.89%), South East (0.55%), East of England (0.64%), South West (0.72%). Clustering of cases is more prevalent in Lancashire, Manchester, Liverpool and West Yorkshire, West Midlands and East Midlands. The percentage of people infected aged 55 to 64 increased more than threefold from 0.37% to 1.2%, but infections remain highest in those aged 18 to 24 (2.2%). Prevalence is increasing in primary- and secondary-aged children

The Government Office of Science and Scientists advising the Government (the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)) [have reported](#) that the current reproduction ('R') rate - the number of people an infected person will pass Covid-19 onto - for the UK is between 1.1 to 1.3. The [Government's coronavirus dashboard for 4 November](#), has reported the UK has recorded 25,177 new Covid-19 cases.

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### FACE COVERINGS – UPDATED GUIDANCE

- **It is compulsory to wear face coverings in many public spaces, in England.** A face covering is, for example, a fabric covering, scarf or bandana – that covers the nose and mouth in additional enclosed public spaces.
- The Government has announced that during the new national restrictions, face coverings should be worn by students and staff in secondary schools and further education colleges in communal spaces, outside of classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained. [Guidance on Education and childcare settings: New National Restrictions from 5 November 2020](#)

[Guidance on face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own](#)

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### THE BASICS OF COVID-19 INFECTION CONTROL

1. **HANDS: Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.**
2. **FACE: Wear a face covering over your mouth and nose if you are in an enclosed space and in close contact with people you do not normally meet.** [Guidance on face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own.](#)
3. **SPACE: Make space. Always stay 2 metres away from people you do not live with – or 1 metre with extra precautions.** Extra precautions might include screens, or face coverings and extra ventilation - the Prime Minister has emphasised that people should “improve ventilation when spending time indoors”.
4. **If you have Covid-19 symptoms, get a test and self-isolate”.** The Prime Minister has said that people should only book “a test if you have a fever, a new continuous cough, or you’ve lost your sense of taste or smell”.

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## GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

- [\*\*The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(England\) \(No. 4\) Regulations 2020\*\*](#). An [explanatory memorandum](#) is also available.
- [\*\*Guidance on the new National Restrictions from 5 November\*\*](#)
- [\*\*An index of overarching Covid-19 guidance for health and social care settings, other non-clinical settings, and for the public\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Guidance for working safely during coronavirus\*\*](#), including how to make your workplace COVID-secure
- [\*\*Guidance on NHS Test and Trace: how it works\*\*](#), including an overview of NHS Test and Trace, including what happens if you test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive.
- [\*\*Guidance on face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Guidance on making a support bubble with another household\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Guidance on actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Guidance for arranging or attending a funeral during Covid-19\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Safer travel guidance for passengers & Safer transport guidance for operators\*\*](#)

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