

This is an occasional public health update from Northumberland County Council sent on Wednesday 2 December 2020 to let you know about changes to COVID-19 restrictions in Northumberland that have come into force today.

Stay informed

Please click on the link below to sign up for more frequent COVID updates, new grant and support information, changes to council services and important local news:

<https://nland.uk/updates>

Important information about the new Tier 3: VERY HIGH ALERT regulations

As you will probably be aware, from Wednesday 2 December, Northumberland is being put in the Tier 3: Very High Alert category in response to Covid-19, along with the rest of the region and many other areas in England.

Whilst this is disappointing, it is important to remember that moving into the Very High Alert is not just about reducing cases, it's more complex than that. We have to look at the rates in all age groups, particularly older people who are more vulnerable to the virus; and we have to take into consideration the pressure on our local hospitals and NHS services.

We are determined to do everything we can to move out of Tier 3 as quickly and safely as we can. In the meantime we must all continue to do our bit in our fight against this terrible virus. Now more than ever, please do what's necessary to protect yourself,

protect others, and protect Northumberland. Your efforts really are making a difference.

For the latest local information on the coronavirus pandemic and the support that is available please visit

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/coronavirus> and you can download a Tier 3 summary to keep on your phone at <https://nland.uk/T3info2Dec> (PDF).

Summary of the new Tier 3 regulations from 2 December 2020:

- 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’.
- 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.

- › indoor attractions at mostly outdoor entertainment venues must also close (indoor shops, through-ways and public toilets at such attractions can remain open).
- › leisure and sports facilities may continue to stay open, but group exercise classes (including fitness and dance) should not go ahead. Saunas and steam rooms should close.
- › there should be no public attendance at spectator sport or indoor performances and large business events should not be taking place. 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.
- › 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.
- › 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.
- › 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.

- 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 visit <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> and for your destination and the travel corridors list visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

Northumberland Businesses

There are a number of grants already available to businesses – please visit <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/businesshub> for more information and to apply – this is updated daily and contains a wide range of information aimed at supporting businesses during these difficult times.

Following Northumberland's move into a Tier 3 from 2 December, we expect there will be further Government financial support for businesses.

We are aware that the grant schemes will not support every business in Northumberland, and we will continue to work with and lobby Government for further funding and support for more sectors and more businesses. We await further details on this and will move as quickly as possible to get information and funding out to businesses.

Useful links

- Tier 3 detailed information <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>
- Tier 3 Infographic (PDF) <https://nland.uk/T3infographic2Dec>
- Christmas Bubble information <https://nland.uk/xmasbubble>

We're here to help

If you or anyone in your family is having a difficult time or feeling overwhelmed, please get in touch:

Phone: 01670 620015 between 9am to 6pm, seven days a week.

Email: NCT@northumberland.gov.uk

Visit: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/communitiestogether>

**This public health email was sent to you on
Wednesday 2 December 2020 by:**

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