



I am sure you don't need reminding – but I thought it would be worth sharing this information. Please feel free to share with staff, colleagues and family.

Across our borough, and throughout Greater Manchester, the infection rate is falling. Although the rate is heading in the right direction, there is still a long way to go, and our numbers remain high against the national picture. As a result we, and the rest of Greater Manchester, have been placed into tier 3, the very high alert level.

Across all tiers, everyone:

- must wear a face covering in most indoor public settings, unless they have an exemption.
- should follow the rules on meeting others safely.
- should attend school or college as normal, unless they are self-isolating.
- should walk or cycle where possible, plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes when traveling.
- must follow the gathering limits for their tier except for in specific settings and circumstances.

In tier 3:

- 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'
- Indoor entertainment and tourist venues must close. As must hospitality settings, such as bars (including shisha venues), pubs, cafes and restaurants – they are permitted to continue sales by takeaway, click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery services.
- Leisure and sports facilities may open, but group exercise classes (including fitness and dance) should not go ahead, and saunas and steam rooms will close. Organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue, however higher-risk contact activity should not take place.
- 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

More information about the new tiers and the restrictions in tier 3 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#very-high-alert>

The council is still accepting applications for the business support grants. More information about eligibility can be found here: <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/business-and-industry/business-advice-and-support/Pages/business-grants-and-loans.aspx> . In summary the following are available:

- National lockdown grant for those businesses who were mandated to close for the month (and funding for the 14 days of Tier 3)
- Local restrictions grant for those hospitality and leisure businesses that traded throughout August, September and October (but at a reduced capacity due to social distancing measures)
- Additional support grant for those businesses who mainly supply the hospitality and leisure sector

If you are a professional services business and may have clients eligible for these grants – please can you share the link to the Council's website.

Kind regards

Carol and the RDA Team

Carol Hopkins

Business Development Manager

Phone: 01706 924886

Mobile: 07794 210858



Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU

www.investinrochdale.co.uk

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