



PLEASE SHARE WITH COLLEAGUES, EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY  
PLEASE ALSO NOTE THIS IS SUBJECT TO CONSTANT REVIEW AND COULD  
CHANGE – SO IS CORRECT AS OF WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.

Rochdale and other areas in Greater Manchester and North West England, are now in the high alert level.

The three local alert levels:

- Medium is the lowest level and currently applies to most of the country. The national measures, which came into force on 25 September, should be followed by all locations on medium alert. This includes the rule of six, and the closure of hospitality at 10pm.
- High is the next level up. Most areas that were subject to local restrictions until today, including our borough and other areas in Greater Manchester and North West England, are now in the high alert level. This level primarily aims to reduce household to household transmission by preventing all mixing between households or support bubbles indoors. The rule of six applies outdoors, including in private gardens.
- Very high is the highest level, and is applied where transmission rates are causing the greatest concern. Currently, only Liverpool City Region falls within the very high alert level.

What being in the high alert level means for us:

In addition to the national restrictions and rule of six that apply to the medium alert level, the following restrictions apply in our borough:

- you must not socialise indoors with anybody outside of your household or support bubble, whether at home or in a public place (including pubs and restaurants). This includes meeting with people from outside of the high alert area
- you must not socialise in a group of more than six people, including children, outside. This includes meeting in private gardens or in public spaces like beaches or parks (other than where specific exemptions apply in law)
- exercise classes and organised sport can continue outdoors, but will only be permitted indoors if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with or share a support bubble with, or for youth or disability sport
- **businesses** and venues can continue to operate in a covid-secure manner (other than those that remain closed in law)
- schools, universities and places of worship remain open
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees

- you can continue to travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but should look to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible.

All other national restrictions remain, including social distancing, and the need to [wear a face covering in areas where this is mandated](#), and fines will be given to people who don't follow the rules.

What are the key changes for our borough?

- Socialising indoors (for instance in pubs and restaurants) with people you don't live with, who are not in your support bubble, was previously not advised. Now you must not socialise in any indoor setting with anyone outside your household or support bubble. You can socialise outside in places like parks as long as you are in a group of no more than six people.
- Under the previous GM restrictions you could not meet anyone from outside your household or support bubble in your home or garden. You still cannot meet people from outside your household or support bubble in your home, but you can now meet people in your garden as long as it is not in a group of more than six people
- Sports can continue outdoors as before with social distancing measures in place. Indoor sports are now only permitted if you can avoid mixing with people you do not live with or share a support bubble with, or for youth or disability sport.

The alert level will be reviewed every two weeks. We must all follow the 'high alert' guidance from today to protect each other, and help to maintain the spread of coronavirus. If we don't follow the measures, we increase the likelihood of moving into the 'very high alert' level where cases are increasing most rapidly and facing additional restrictions.

More information

- Find out [more about the covid high alert level](#) that applies in our borough
- The [local covid alert levels](#) can be found here
- [Postcode checker](#) to find out which alert level applies in a specific area

Regards

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