

Context

With effect from Thursday 5 November the whole of England will be entering a further period of national lockdown expected to last until 2 December 2020 – the new lockdown will introduce some important changes to current Tier 2 local restrictions.

[Covid case numbers](#) are rising rapidly across the whole of the UK and in other countries. The Government has therefore decided to introduce a further [national lockdown](#) for England that will:

- Require people to stay at home, except for specific purposes
- Prevent gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes
- Close certain businesses and venues, except for specific purposes.

The national restrictions are aimed at getting the virus under control to help prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed; ensure schools, colleges and universities can stay open; and ensure that as many people as possible can continue to work.

During this period, all the other actions will continue, such as infection prevention and control, testing, tracing, managing outbreaks, communications, compliance and enforcement. We need everyone to play their part so that ***more people, do more of the right thing, more of the time, because they choose to.*** Please do all you can to encourage everyone, when not at home, to:

- *Make **space** and stay 2m away from people you do not live with;*
- *Wash your **hands** regularly and for 20 seconds;*
- *Cover your **face** in enclosed spaces;*
- ***Isolate** when you need to/are advised to, and only get a test if you have symptoms; and*
- ***Follow the new restrictions** to reduce transmission of the virus and protect the NHS*

This document is primarily produced for councillors and MPs, staff and partners, **it is not intended for distribution to the public**. It is based on the Government regulations, and will be reviewed and updated regularly. Email member.support@leeds.gov.uk if you think there is something crucial missing.

Please remember to visit the [Coronavirus help for people and communities](#) for information or call the Local Welfare Support Scheme phone number: 0113 3760330.

Please remember to visit the [Coronavirus help for businesses](#) where there is an enquiry form to complete.

The following pages provide question and answer information about the new restrictions. It is always worth checking gov.uk or the Leeds City Council Covid pages for the latest guidance, as things are constantly changing.

Please access these quick links for answers to these common questions:

New national restrictions

1. [Is a standard response available for resident queries related to the newly announced national restrictions?](#)
2. [Why has the Government changed its approach and moved away from the Tier system?](#)
3. [Who do these restrictions apply to?](#)
4. [Is there a summary available of the new restrictions?](#)
5. [What businesses are now closed and which ones will remain open?](#)
6. [I am a restaurant/bar/pub/cafe owner, can I offer a take away service?](#)
7. [When are these Government restrictions applicable from and how long will they last for?](#)
8. [How do the additional Government restrictions affect me, my family and my friends?](#)
9. [What action can be taken against me for not sticking to the restrictions?](#)
10. [What should I do if I am a business or affected organisation in Leeds?](#)
11. **What business support is available following the introduction of national restrictions on 5 November until 2 December and where should I refer businesses for more information?**
12. [How is travel affected by the Government restrictions?](#)
13. [Can I play team sport and do physical activity?](#)
14. [Can I meet anyone outside?](#)
15. [What about indoor exercising, classes, gyms and leisure centres?](#)
16. [How are weddings and funerals affected by the national restrictions?](#)
17. [What about places of worship are they open?](#)
18. **Can religious classes continue in places of worship (such as madrasah classes in mosques)?**
19. [Can I go to work?](#)
20. [Can I still move house during the new lockdown?](#)
21. [With the new lockdown, are hairdressers and mobile hairdressers allowed to still work?](#)
22. [I go into other people's homes as part of my job. Is this allowed?](#)
23. [How many cases of Coronavirus are in Leeds?](#)
24. [How are housing evictions impacted by the new restrictions?](#)
25. [Are there any payments I am eligible for if I have to self-isolate?](#)
26. [Are the banks offering mortgage breaks again?](#)
27. [Will hotels/bad and breakfast/hostels close through the lockdown?](#)
28. [Can my Dog Grooming business continue?](#)

Contacts

29. [How do I report a breach of the local or national restrictions to the Police?](#)
30. [How do I contact the council to report an environmental health breach?](#)

Support and childcare bubbles, caring responsibilities and shielding

31. [During the first lockdown, I was shielding because I am classed as clinically extremely vulnerable adult, do I now need to shield again?](#)
32. [What if I am clinically vulnerable, do I shield?](#)
33. [How is childcare affected by the additional Government restrictions for Leeds?](#)
34. [What are the different bubbles and how do they work in practice?](#)
35. [Can I visit a friend or family member who is in a care home?](#)
36. [Can I still provide support to an elderly or vulnerable friend or family member?](#)

37. Can I continue to offer dance/judo/group activities to children?
38. Can Drama schools/classes continue? – see answer to Q37 above

Council services, meetings and councillor surgeries

39. [Have the plans to allow councillors to restart advice surgeries been put on hold?](#)
40. [What about plans for hybrid council meetings?](#)
41. [Will the new restrictions mean some council services will close?](#)
42. [What other impact will there be on Council services?](#)
43. [What is the situation with Council operated community centres in Leeds?](#)

Schools, education and universities

44. [Should children who are clinically extremely vulnerable \(the shielding group\) attend school in Leeds?](#)
45. [Are there any additional implications for schools and colleges?](#)
46. [How do these new Government restrictions affect going to school, college and university?](#)
47. [Is there a possibility that university students may be unable to return home for the Christmas holidays?](#)
48. [What is being done to avoid a second spike in infection rates amongst students and in universities?](#)

Volunteering

49. [Can community volunteer groups \(such as food banks\) continue?](#)
50. [Can local support/charitable groups still go ahead?](#)
51. [I want to volunteer and provide support to those in need during the new lockdown measures, is there any information available to assist me?](#)
52. [We are an organisation that provides key services and we need volunteers to assist us during the new lockdown, can I access information that provides assistance](#)
53. Can Voluntary Organisations continue to deliver meals to the vulnerable?

1. Is a standard response available for resident queries related to the newly announced national restrictions?

Yes, please see below generic response to queries from residents:

The new national approach launched by the Government and effective from 5 November has been introduced to slow the rate of increase in infection rates across England.

The Government is now taking the following action:

- Requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purposes.
- Preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.
- Closing certain businesses and venues.

The Council and its partners are doing all we can to limit the spread of Covid-19 in Leeds, for example: testing, tracing, door knocking, infection prevention and control, compliance and enforcement, and extensive communications and engagement to keep the city moving throughout this difficult time.

However, the key message now is that we all stay at home to try to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and reduce infection rates. For more information on the national restrictions please visit the [Government guidance](#).

2. Why has the Government changed its approach and moved away from the Tier system?

Covid case numbers have continued to rise rapidly across the whole of the UK and in other countries. The Government has decided to act on a national basis to prevent further spread of the virus. From Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, the Government is taking the following action, set out in guidance and supported by regulations:

- Requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purposes.
- Preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.
- Closing certain businesses and venues.

The new restrictions are expected to last until 2 December 2020 at which point it is expected the Government will return to the regional tier system.

3. Who do these restrictions apply to?

They apply to everyone in England. Full details on the new restrictions can be found [here](#).

4. Is there a summary available of the new restrictions?

The Government has decided that we must all now stay at home to reduce the spread of the virus and only leave home for a few specific purposes, these include:

- for childcare
- for work purposes, volunteering, education or training where these cannot be done at home (including if your job involves working in other people's homes)
- 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 (children under school age, as well as those dependent on round-the-clock care, such as those with severe disabilities, who are with their parents will not count towards the limit on two people meeting outside).
- for any medical concerns, reasons, appointments and emergencies, or to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm - such as domestic abuse
- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which should be as infrequent as possible
- to visit members of your [support bubble](#) or provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer
- to attend a place of worship and an event to commemorate Remembrance Sunday
- to buy, rent, sell or move house
- to collect food, drink or other goods which have been ordered from a business, are allowed to open
- to access goods or services from a business which is allowed to open
- to visit a burial ground or garden of remembrance, to pay respects to a member of your household, a family member or friend,
- to visit a waste disposal or recycling centre.

A summary of the new restrictions can be found [here](#).

5. What businesses are now closed and which ones will remain open?

To reduce social contact, the Government has ordered certain businesses and venues to close. These include:

- all non-essential retail. This includes clothing and electronics stores, vehicle showrooms, travel agents, betting shops, auction houses, tailors, car washes, and tobacco and vape shops. However, this is not a full list of all shops that need to close.
- indoor and outdoor leisure facilities such as bowling alleys, leisure centres and gyms, sports facilities including swimming pools, golf courses and driving ranges, bowling greens, tennis courts, dance studios, stables and riding centres, soft play facilities, climbing walls and climbing centres, archery and shooting ranges, water and theme parks,
- entertainment venues such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, museums and galleries, casinos, adult gaming centres and arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, concert halls, zoos and other animal attractions, botanical gardens;
- personal care facilities such as hair, beauty and nail salons, tattoo parlours, spas, massage parlours, body and skin piercing services, non-medical acupuncture, and tanning salons, including where these services are mobile or in someone's private dwelling.

The following can remain open:

- food shops, supermarkets, garden centres, convenience stores and corner shops, off licenses, pharmacies and chemists,
- newsagents, hardware stores, pet stores and bicycle shops,
- petrol stations, banks and building societies,
- post offices, funeral directors, laundrettes and dry cleaners,
- car repair and MOT services, dentists, opticians, and vets.

This can also include shops which sell a combination of food and other goods.

Shops allowed to remain open must follow COVID-secure guidelines to protect customers, visitors and workers.

Where shops have to close they can still offer an ordering service with delivery to customers and click-and-collect, provided customers do not enter the closed premises.

Outdoor public spaces and playgrounds will also remain open.

A full list of the business closures are contained in the [regulations](#), more details can be found [here](#).

6. I am a restaurant/bar/pub/cafe owner, can I offer a take away service?

Yes you can offer take away services under the following circumstances:

- Food and non-alcoholic drinks can be sold for takeaway without pre order and customers can enter premises between 0500 and 22.00
- Alcohol can only be sold for takeaway if it is pre ordered (either online, by telephone, text or post) and then delivered, collected via click and collect (customer should not enter premises) or drive thru (customer should not leave their vehicle).
- After 22.00 – all food and drink including alcohol has to be pre ordered and delivered, click and collected or drive thru

7. When are these Government restrictions applicable from and how long will they last for?

The new restrictions follow an announcement made by the Prime Minister on 31 October, the vote in Parliament on 4 November, and will be effective from 5 November 2020 lasting for a four week period until 2 December 2020 at which point the Government will review the restrictions and return to the Tier system, as long as the key indicators are moving in the right direction.

8. How do the additional Government restrictions affect me, my family and my friends?

In order to help prevent the spread of coronavirus you must stay at home and it is illegal (other than exemptions) to:

- host people you do not live with in your home or their home, unless they're in your [support](#) or [childcare bubble](#)
- meet people you do not live with in a private garden

However, you can exercise or visit outdoor public places with the people you live with or those in your support bubble. Also if you follow social distancing you can also exercise with or meet 1 person from another household. Children under school age, as well as those dependent on round-the-clock care, such as those with severe disabilities, who are with their parents will not count towards the limit on people meeting outside. Outdoor public places include:

- parks, beaches, countryside,
- public gardens (whether or not you pay to enter them), allotments
- outdoor playgrounds

9. What action can be taken against me for not sticking to the restrictions?

To prevent the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives we strongly recommend that everyone stick to the new national restrictions.

However for those that do not, the police will be able to take action against them, including asking people to disperse and issuing fixed penalty notices for those aged over 18 who participate in illegal gatherings. Fines begin at:

- £200 for the first offence, lowered to £100 if paid within 14 days
- £400 for the second offence, then doubling for each further offence up to a maximum of £6,400

10. What should I do if I am a business or affected organisation in Leeds?

If you operate a business in Leeds which must close, you must take steps to close or operate in a way that the new guidance allows with effect from 00.01 on 5 November.

If you are a business which can remain open you should take steps in line with [Covid-19 secure guidance](#) for your business.

11. What business support is available following the introduction of national restrictions on 5 November until 2 December and where should I refer businesses for more information?

The [Leeds City Council webpage](#) will be updated as and when schemes are open for applications. Please encourage businesses to register their interest via this webpage and we will send them an alert when new information becomes available:

a. **The Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) - also known as the Furlough scheme - will remain open until the end of March 2021, meaning that:**

- Employees will receive 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500.
- The cost for employers of retaining workers will be reduced compared to the scheme which ended on the 31 October.
- Employers small or large, charitable or non-profit, are eligible for the extended Job Retention Scheme. Partially publicly funded organisations may be eligible where their private revenues have been disrupted.
- Businesses will have flexibility to bring furloughed employees back to work on a part time basis or furlough them full-time.
- Businesses will only be asked to cover National Insurance and employer pension contributions which, for the average claim, accounts for just 5% of total employment costs.
- This extended Job Retention Scheme will operate as the previous scheme did, with businesses being paid upfront to cover wages costs. There will be a short period when the government will need to change the legal terms of the scheme and update the system and businesses will be paid in arrears for that period.
- **The Job Support Scheme, which was scheduled to come in on Sunday 1 November, has been postponed**
- Additional guidance will be set out shortly, and the government will confirm when claims can first be made in respect of employee wage costs during November, but there will be no gap in eligibility for support between the previously announced end-date of CJRS and this extension.

b. **Self-Employed Income Support.**

- This scheme has been extended for six months from November 2020 to April 2021. Grants will be paid in two lump sum instalments each covering a three-month period.
- The first grant will cover a three-month period from 1 November 2020 until 31 January 2021. The Government will provide a taxable grant covering 80% of average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £7500 in total.
- The Government are providing broadly the same level of support for the self-employed as is being provided for employees through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in November due to its extension.
- The second grant will cover a three-month period from 1 February 2021 until 30 April 2021. The Government will review the level of the second grant and set this in due course.
- The grants are taxable income and also subject to National Insurance contributions.

c. Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed).

Business premises forced to close in England are to receive grants worth up to £3,000 for the period 5th November to 2nd December.

- For properties with a rateable value of £15k or under, grants to be £1,334 per month;
- For properties with a rateable value of between £15k-£51k grants to be £2,000 per month;
- For properties with a rateable value of £51k or over grants to be £3,000 per month.

Businesses required to close can now apply for these grants via the Leeds City Council business [webpage](#).

The amount allocated to Leeds City Council for these mandatory grant awards has been confirmed as £12,993,462

d. Additional Restrictions Grant.

This is a single allocation based on £20 per head of population (ONS 2019 Mid-Year Population Estimates) for each local authority to use to run a discretionary grant scheme, for example to closed businesses that do not have a rateable value or have costs that are significantly higher.

Discretionary grants can also be paid to businesses that are severely impacted rather than closed. The allocation can also be used for other direct business support at the discretion of the local authority, for example support for businesses from Growth Hubs.

The ARG is a one-off payment for Local Authorities in financial year 20/21 and is to be used in 20/21 and 21/22 and will not be renewed.

We expect the value of this Grant to be £15.85M for Leeds City Council and this will be paid to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Proposals for this Discretionary Fund are being worked up by Officers as soon as possible with the expectation that we will align the approach across West Yorkshire as far as possible but administer our scheme locally.

The Leeds City Council allocation has been confirmed as £18,862,780 and this will be paid to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

e. Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open)

Leeds City Council will receive an allocation of £7,939,091 to pay Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) grants for the period spent under 'Tier 2' restrictions.

Each Local Authority will receive a formula-based allocation for each full or part four-week in Tier 2. This funding allows each Local Authority to run a

discretionary grant scheme to support those businesses impacted by the restrictions. This scheme also applies when an area has been in Tier 3.

Proposals for this Discretionary Fund are being worked up by Officers this week with the expectation that we will align the approach across West Yorkshire as far as possible.

f. Local Restriction Support Grant (Sector)

Businesses that were required to close in March and which have never been able to re-open (for example nightclubs) will be paid grants of up to £3,000 for every four-week period that they have to remain closed. There is no back-dating of the scheme, it began 1st November 2020.

g. Rates Relief

Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.

12. How is travel affected by the Government restrictions?

You should avoid travelling in or out of your local area, and you should look to reduce the number of journeys you make. However you can and should still travel for a number of reasons, including:

- travelling to work where this cannot be done 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
- visiting venues that are open, including essential retail
- exercise, if you need to make a short journey to do so

Overnight stays and holidays away from primary residences will not be allowed. This includes holidays abroad and in the UK. It also means you cannot stay in a second home, if you own one, or staying with anyone you do not live with or are in a support bubble with. More details can be found [here](#).

13. Can I play team sport and do physical activity?

Only elite sports will be allowed to continue during this period. It is possible to exercise outdoors with people you live with or who are part of your support bubble, or if you are alone with one other person. All other non-elite sport will not be possible. This will include golf and tennis. School sport will continue.

14. Can I meet anyone outside?

You can exercise or visit outdoor public places with the people you live with or those in your support bubble. Also if you follow social distancing and if you are alone, you can also exercise with or meet 1 person from another household. Children under school age, as well as those dependent on round-the-clock care, such as those with severe disabilities, who are with their parents or carer will not count towards the limit on two people meeting outside.

15. What about indoor exercising, classes, gyms and leisure centres?

These will be prohibited and leisure centres and gyms will close during these enhanced national restrictions, other than exceptions for elite/professional categories.

16. How are weddings and funerals affected by the national restrictions?

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.

Weddings, civil partnership ceremonies will not be permitted to take place except in exceptional circumstances, such as deathbed weddings where 6 are allowed.

17. What about places of worship are they open?

Places of Worship will be closed, unless they are being used for:

- Funerals
- To broadcast acts of worship
- Individual prayer
- Formal childcare or where part of a school
- Essential voluntary and public services, such as blood donation or food banks
- Other exempted activities such as some support groups

18. Can religious classes continue in places of worship (such as madrasah classes in mosques)?

Places of worship are only permitted to open for specific purposes and “education” is not one of them unless it is education which falls within the following list:

- Out-of-school activities, such as attending religious classes can continue in places of worship if their primary purpose is either to:
 - provide registered childcare or
 - offer other childcare activities
 - **however**, both of the above must be provided because it is reasonable necessary to enable parents to work or search for work or undertake training or education;
- for respite care, including for vulnerable children.
- to be primarily used by home educating parents as part of their arrangements for their child to receive a suitable full-time education (which could include, for example, tuition centres, supplementary schools, or private tutors).

The guidance from DfE covering the impact of the new national restrictions on the education sector is published [here](#)

The above does not include congregational prayers as these are not currently permitted.

The education of adults within a place of worship is not permitted.

Youth support services, including 1-1 youth work and support groups, may also continue to operate but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.

19. Can I go to work?

To help contain the virus, all workers who can work effectively from home should do so. Where an employer judges that an employee can carry out their normal duties from home they should do so. However, people can continue to travel to work if home working is not an option and workplaces must implement Covid-19 secure guidance to help reduce the risk. More detail on working from home guidance can be found [here](#) and for information on workplace Covid-19 secure guidance please follow this [link](#).

Extra consideration should be given to people at higher risk. There is separate guidance available for those that are classed as [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) and they are advised not to go into work if they cannot work from home and there will be statutory sick pay and employment support allowance available to support them. Full details can be found [here](#). Additional consideration should also be given to those clinically vulnerable and all over 60s, who can go to work but should have a risk assessment, here is the [guidance](#).

20. Can I still move house during the new lockdown?

Yes. The Government has said that people will still be able to move house, whether they are renting or buying. Removal firms and estate agents can also carry on working but must follow Covid safety guidance.

21. With the new lockdown, are hairdressers and mobile hairdressers allowed to still work?

Personal care facilities such as hairdressers and barbers, beauty and nail salons and spas must close. This includes if you offer a personal care facilities on a mobile basis or from your own home.

22. I go into other people's homes as part of my job. Is this allowed?

Personal care or close contact services will be prohibited. For example mobile hairdressers or beauticians cannot continue to work. However, tradespeople (who are not required to close) will be allowed to enter home to carry out work provided they follow [Covid-19 safety guidance](#).

23. How many cases of Coronavirus are in Leeds?

Information on the number of cases nationally can currently be accessed [here](#). And for Leeds as a whole it can be found [here](#). For a more detailed analysis the Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) map data can be found [here](#).

24. How are housing evictions impacted by the new restrictions?

Leeds City Council suspended evictions at the start of lockdown and there are no plans to resume evictions at this point in time.

25. Are there any payments I am eligible for if I have to self-isolate?

The Government has launched a support scheme that local authorities are administering. Subject to eligibility, if you have been asked to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace service, you may be entitled to a support payment of £500. There is a known issue, whereby if the Test and Trace App notifies you to self-isolate, you may not be eligible for financial support. We have raised this with Government, who are working on this and we will update as soon as we know more. Full details are available on the Leeds City Council website [here](#). Further details can be found on these links [Job Support Scheme \(from 1 November\)](#) and [New Style Employment and Support Allowance](#)

26. Are the banks offering mortgage breaks again?

[Mortgage payment holidays are being extended](#) for homeowners financially affected by the pandemic. Borrowers who have not yet had a mortgage holiday can request from their lender a pause in repayments, and that can last up to six months. Those who have had their payments deferred already can extend their mortgage holiday until they reach the six-month limit.

27. Will hotels/bad and breakfast/hostels close through the lockdown?

Places like hotels and hostels are only going to be open for people who have to travel for work purposes. There are also a limited number of other people who can stay in a hotel such as someone who needs accommodation to attend a funeral or who is isolating from others as required by law. Also if you were planning a holiday rather than a business trip, you should bear in mind that the new rules state "you should avoid all non-essential travel by private or public transport".

28. Can my Dog Grooming business continue?

A dog grooming business is not an essential business which can stay open, unless they are used for the purposes of the animal's welfare (and not for aesthetic purposes).

Where the business has to close its premises it could provide the service by a method of pre-arranged bookings, where the animal is taken from then returned to the car, which involves no public contact or public entering the dog grooming premises. The public are able to leave their home to access services that can continue or on the grounds of animal welfare.

Contacts

29. How do I report a breach of the local or national restrictions to the Police?

There are various methods to contact the Police, which can be done from the safety of your own home, including telephone, 101 live chat and online reporting. [More details can be found here](#). Only dial 999 if it is an emergency.

30. How do I contact the council to report an environmental health breach?

You can contact the environmental health team by emailing entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk (for licensing premises). Alternatively, our dedicated [business page for Covid-19 – Businesses that need to close](#) – has more information.

Support and childcare bubbles, caring responsibilities and shielding

31. During the first lockdown, I was shielding because I am classed as [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) adult, do I now need to shield again?

New shielding advice has been [published](#) to support the new restrictions that take effect on 5 November 2020, revised now that more is known about the virus and about the effects of shielding at home. Letters are being sent to every clinically extremely vulnerable person out from Government on 4 November. Some funding is being provided to councils to provide support to this group. Roughly half of the people in the Leeds CEV cohort are under 65 and half are over 65. There are over 42,000 people in this group in Leeds. Around 36,000 people from cohort receive text messages from the Council with information and advice- to date only one person has unsubscribed.

As background, this group are identified by the NHS because they have a specific existing health condition(s) that makes them likely to have serious complications if they caught coronavirus. People can be in this group because of specific conditions (list [here](#)) or a combination of conditions. Additionally, two new groups of people will be added to the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Group this time: adults with Down's Syndrome and adults with Chronic Kidney Disease at Stage 5. These people will be formally notified by their clinician and then sent a letter from government – but this may take some days to complete.

It is GPs or consultants who add/take people off the list, and all people should be notified by the NHS of any changes to the advice that applies to them.

Unfortunately, much of the advice for this cohort focuses on what people should not do, but it must be in the context of staying mentally and physically well – and assisting people to choose what is the right thing for them. The guidance includes the following advice:

- **Work** - If you cannot work from home, then you should not come into the workplace – statutory sick pay or employment support allowance is available to you.
- **School** – Please see question 39 below.
- **Shopping and Pharmacy** - You are strongly advised not to go to the shops or to the pharmacy in person- you can register for priority online deliveries at supermarkets and your pharmacy should deliver free to your door.
- **Socialising** - In general, you are advised to stay at home as much as possible – but to take exercise or walks outdoors every day to stay healthy. Take care to keep your home well ventilated and try to stay 2 metres away from other people within your household if they are going outside for work or using public transport. This period will be difficult but it is important to keep in touch through other means as much as possible. This may mean keeping in

social contact with family, friends and neighbours through telephone, internet and window visits.

- **Travel** - You are advised not to travel unless essential and to avoid public transport
- **Care and support** - You should continue to access the care and support you need – this includes any hospital or care appointment you would normally go to. In addition you can still receive informal care at home from people within your support bubble and from professional social care and medical workers.

32. What if I am clinically vulnerable, do I shield?

There is no need to shield, but if you are over 60 or clinically vulnerable, you could be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. 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 vulnerable people are those who are:

- aged 70 or over (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (that is, anyone instructed to get a flu jab each year on medical grounds):
 - chronic (long-term) mild to moderate respiratory diseases, such as asthma,
 - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
 - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
 - chronic kidney disease
 - chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
 - chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS) or cerebral palsy
 - diabetes
 - a weakened immune system as the result of certain conditions or medicines they are taking (such as steroid tablets)
 - being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
 - pregnant

33. How is childcare affected by the additional Government restrictions?

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, to seek work or for the purposes of respite care.

Early years settings can remain open. Parents are able to form a childcare bubble with another household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13

or under. As above, some households will also be able to benefit from being in a [support bubble](#), which allows single adult households to join another household.

Some youth services may be able to continue, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.

34. What are the different bubbles and how do they work in practice?

A [support bubble](#) is where a lone adult household with one adult or one adult with a child or children under the age of 18 joins with another household (on an exclusive basis).

[Childcare support bubbles](#) You may be able to link with one other household to form a childcare support bubble. You can form a childcare support bubble if you:

- have a child who is 13 or under
- need help with informal childcare that can be provided by a second household, and
- are not in another childcare support bubble

You can have one support bubble and one childcare support bubble. The Government recommends that bubbles are formed with a local household wherever possible, to help to prevent the virus spreading from an area with a higher rate of infection.

A **bubble** in an education setting is specific and only applicable to that setting e.g. school, nursery etc. Given the aim of these restrictions is to limit contact, people should only be in one of each bubble.

35. Can I visit a friend of family member who is in a care home?

This is one of the reasons you are allowed to leave your home. Here is the current [local guidance](#) and here is the [expected direction nationally](#) with formal guidance due imminently.

36. Can I still provide support to an elderly or vulnerable friend or family member?

You can leave your home to provide care or assistance to a vulnerable person, including providing personal care

37. Can I continue to offer dance/judo/group activities to children?

Unless the supervised activities for children you offer are provided to enable parents or those with parental responsibility to attend work, education or training, or to search for work, you cannot continue to run your classes.

Therefore, supervised activities for children only apply to limited activities relating to wraparound school/nursery care where parents are at work, education or training.

38. Can Drama schools/classes continue? – see answer to Q37 above

Unless the supervised activities for children you offer are provided to enable parents or those with parental responsibility to attend work, education or training, or to search for work, you cannot continue to run your classes.

Therefore, supervised activities for children only apply to limited activities relating to wraparound school/nursery care where parents are at work, education or training.

Council services, meetings and councillor surgeries

39. Have the plans to allow councillors to restart advice surgeries been put on hold?

Given the aim of these restrictions is to minimise contact then as much business as possible should be done online. Face to face meetings are now only permitted if an exception applies.

40. What about plans for hybrid council meetings?

Given the aim of these restrictions is to reduce social contact and the advice is to work from home if you can do so effectively, council business will be conducted remotely for the foreseeable future.

41. Will the new restrictions mean some council services will close?

Council services planned to close from 5 Nov-2 Dec:

- Visitor attractions, including Leeds Museums and Galleries and Events and Venues including Leeds Town Hall, Carriageworks Theatre and Pudsey Town Hall would close for general public access, some functions would operate online and buildings would continue to operate for specific purposes not prohibited (rehearsals, essential collections)
- Leisure and sports facilities, golf courses, outdoor gyms and outdoor courts close to the general public with services operating for elite sports and education provision. Some services operate online.
- Weddings and civil partnerships will be cancelled/postponed, other than in exceptional (eg deathbed) circumstances, where 6 people are allowed.
- Some Community Hubs and libraries will have to close (see below for those open). Face to face Macmillan Welfare Rights service will cease
- All non-essential retail market stalls close and Kirkgate Market Bike Hub would close

42. What other impact will there be on Council services?

Services planned to remain open, albeit adapted to meet guidance and regulations, and subject to staffing levels on an ongoing basis:

- Parks, playgrounds and the Arium, plus car parks
- Funeral services continue with a maximum capacity of 30 people.
- Covid Hubs - Merrion, Central Library, Compton, Armley, Dewsbury Road, Headingley, Reginald and Seacroft (with post office or credit union or NHS co-located services) - offering order and collect books, PC access and emergency enquiries face to face, with all other enquiries dealt with a telephone call back
- Community committees will restart as formal meetings held remotely. Plans Panels will continue to operate remotely.

- Limited impact on elections/regulatory services. Online licensing subcommittees
- Welfare Rights doorstep visits can continue where needed, all rest over phone.
- Contact Centre will continue to operate remotely, although less priority lines may be impacted depending on Covid/Local Welfare Support calls and staffing levels
- Birth and death registrations are available at Merrion House
- Environmental services, including household refuse collections, flytip removal, litter bin emptying, street/path sweeping, household bulky waste collection and forestry continues. Household Waste and Recycling Centres remain open with visits allowed through the existing booking system. The citywide network of local bring banks (eg for glass) will remain available for use. However, we may need to prioritise or reduce the capacity of these services dependent upon our resource availability and that of relevant contractors.
- Housing services including Major Schemes, Council housing repairs, investment programmes and lettings
- Food supplies: Fareshare have a new extended warehouse operational. The Council have assigned £50k if they need to purchase more food. 300 bags of food a week will increase to 1000 on Thursday. Volunteering hub network continues across the city. Working with VAL on getting more volunteers.
- Safer Leeds will focus on Street Support and Rough Sleepers. Change to support for rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness to continue.
- Expect increased pressure on ASB services, particularly around Bonfire Night given existing pressures and more people at home and levels of ASB referrals to manage
- License renewals will continue, with TPHL Vehicle Inspections continuing with a mixture of remote work/onsite inspection (approx. 75% by checking MOT history, 25% by physical vehicle inspection)
- Endeavour to allow face-to-face contact with family for children in care (digital during first lockdown) - will be reviewed case-by-case.
- Our cafes may be able to offer takeaway service where this is manageable
- Social care
- Schools and children and young person settings (incl childcare such as Little Owls);
- Parks operations; responsive highway and winter maintenance; catering and cleaning to support those council venues remaining open; responsive and planned maintenance of council buildings
- Passenger transport and fleet services to keep council vehicles safe and on the road
- Important compliance and enforcement – building control, Env Health, Covid wardens, civic enforcement, parking attendants where role is to ensure safety, security/building wardens;
- Support for public health effort
- Planned and Reactive Highways Maintenance, Major construction and development schemes, Winter Maintenance
- Right to Buy valuations continue based upon the external inspections.
- Planning Enforcement and Site Notices
- Essential retail operates at Kirkgate and District Markets
- Road Safety training continues in schools

43. What is the situation with Council operated community centres in Leeds?

Leeds City Council Community Centres remain shut for general hirers. Most activities would not be appropriate under the new guidelines. A limited number of Leeds buildings are being used for work associated with the pandemic (food relief preparation for example) and for Childcare which is permitted with risk assessments and appropriate safeguards in place. We are happy to discuss particular circumstances with individual groups.

Schools, education and universities

44. Should children who are clinically extremely vulnerable (the shielding group) attend school in Leeds?

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from COVID-19, even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow this advice. Speak to your GP or specialist clinician, if you have not already done so, to understand whether your child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. The NHS has written to Primary and Secondary Care asking re-assessments of children are expedited – so the advice not to go to school is targeted only to the very small number of children who remain clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school while this advice is in place. Your school will make appropriate arrangements for you to be able to continue your education at home. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.

45. Are there any additional implications for schools and colleges?

The Government will continue to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our young people and will not be closing schools, colleges or universities. It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school. Schools have implemented a range of protective measures to make them safe. The policy on face masks is continually reviewed, so best to check gov.uk for the latest information.

Exams will go ahead next summer, as they are the fairest and most accurate way to measure a pupil's attainment. We therefore need to keep schools and colleges open so that children are able to keep progressing towards exams and the next stage of education or employment. Students now have more time to prepare for their exams next year, as most AS, A levels and GCSEs will be held 3 weeks later to help address the disruption caused by the pandemic.

46. How do these new Government restrictions affect going to school, college and university?

If you live at university, you must not travel between your permanent home and student home during term time, other than certain exceptions. During this period you

should only return home at the end of term for Christmas. Further guidance is expected to be published in the coming weeks.

Commuter students (those who live at a family home and travel to/from university each day) can continue to travel to/from their university as required, this being for education purposes.

47. Is there a possibility that university students may be unable to return home for the Christmas holidays?

Students are advised not to travel between their term time address and home address during term but they will be allowed to return home at the end of term. More guidance from Government is expected on end of term in due course.

48. What is being done to avoid a second spike in infection rates amongst students and in universities?

Universities are planning staggered travel amongst their students to minimise the risk and mitigate any possible second spike.

Volunteering

49. Can community volunteer groups (such as food banks) continue?

Yes, if it is work that can't be done from home and providing people maintain strict social distancing, including with the residents they are helping. Government guidance can be found [here](#).

50. Can local support/charitable groups still go ahead?

This is a complex area and each case maybe slightly different.

Formal 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:

- to victims of crime (including domestic abuse)
- to those with, or recovering from, addictions (including alcohol, narcotics or other substance addictions) or addictive patterns of behaviour
- to new parents
- to those with, or caring for persons with, any long-term illness or terminal condition or who are vulnerable
- to those facing issues related to their sexuality or identity including those living as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender
- to those who have suffered bereavement

51. I want to volunteer and provide support to those in need during the new lockdown measures, is there any information available to assist me?

If you are an organisation, or an individual, who wants to provide additional support and assistance during the lockdown please access this link:

<https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/volunteer/>

52. We are an organisation that provides key services and we need volunteers to assist us during the new lockdown, can I access information that provides assistance?

If you are an organisation and you are looking for volunteers to provide assistance to your services during the latest lockdown please access this link:

<https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/recruit-volunteers/>

53. Can Voluntary Organisations continue to deliver meals to the vulnerable?

Yes

The latest Government guidance can be found [here](#). However, regard should be had to Covid secure contactless deliveries as the meals are being provided to vulnerable people.