



## Lockdown and community centres 4 January 2021

### [National Lockdown guidance stay at home 4 January 2021](#)

This document outlines what you can and cannot do now we are under a national lockdown.

Essentially, we are all required to stay at home, and to only leave home for a few specific reasons, which are summarised as:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare – for those eligible

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local – unless it is necessary to go further, for example to go to work. Stay local means stay in the village, town, or part of the city where you live.

If you are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) you should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. You should not attend work.

You must not leave or be outside of your home except where you have a ‘reasonable excuse’. This will be put in law. The police can take action against you if you leave home without a ‘reasonable excuse’, and issue you with a fine (Fixed Penalty Notice).

You can be given a Fixed Penalty Notice of £200 for the first offence, doubling for further offences up to a maximum of £6,400.

A ‘reasonable excuse’ for leaving home includes:



- Work – you can only leave home for work purposes where it is unreasonable for you to do your job from home, including but not limited to people who work within critical national infrastructure, construction or manufacturing that require in-person attendance
- Volunteering – you can also leave home to provide voluntary or charitable services
- Essential activities – you can leave home to buy things at shops or obtain services. You may also leave your home to do these things on behalf of a disabled or vulnerable person or someone self-isolating.
- Education and childcare – You can only leave home for education, registered childcare, and supervised activities for children where they are eligible to attend. See [further information on education and childcare](#)
- Meeting others and care – You can leave home to visit people in your [support bubble](#) ( if you are legally permitted to form one), to provide informal childcare for children under 14 as part of a [childcare bubble](#) (for example, to enable parents to work, and not to enable social contact between adults), to provide care for disabled or vulnerable people, to provide emergency assistance, to attend a support group (of up to 15 people), or for respite care where that care is being provided to a vulnerable person or a person with a disability, or is a short break in respect of a looked-after child.
- Exercise – You can continue to exercise alone, with one other person or with your household or support bubble. This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area. You should maintain [social distancing](#). See [exercising and meeting other people](#)
- Communal worship and life events – You can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship, a funeral or event related to a death, a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a wedding ceremony. You should follow the [guidance on the safe use of places of worship](#) and must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship. Weddings, funerals and religious, belief-based or commemorative events linked to someone’s death are all subject to limits on the numbers that can attend.

There are further reasonable excuses. For example, you may leave home to fulfil legal obligations or to carry out activities related to buying, selling, letting or renting a residential property, or where it is reasonably necessary for voting in an election or referendum.



There are still circumstances in which you are allowed to meet others from outside your household, childcare or support bubble in larger groups, but this should not be for socialising and only for permitted purposes. A full list of these circumstances will be included in the regulations, and includes:

- For work, or providing voluntary or charitable services, where it is unreasonable to do so from home. This can include work in other people's homes where necessary – for example, for nannies, cleaners, social care workers providing support to children and families, or tradespeople.
- For a wedding or equivalent ceremony. This should only be in exceptional circumstances and is limited to 6 people.
- For funerals – up to a maximum of 30 people. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events can continue in a group of up to 6 people.

Support groups that have to be delivered in person can continue with up to 15 participants where formally organised to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support – but they must take place at a premises other than a private home.

Where a group includes someone covered by an exception (for example, someone who is working or volunteering), they are not generally counted as part of the gatherings limit. This means, for example, a tradesperson can go into a household without breaching the limit, if they are there for work, and the officiant at a wedding would not count towards the limit.

If you break the rules the police can take action against you if you meet in larger groups. This includes breaking up illegal gatherings and issuing fines (fixed penalty notices).

You can be given a Fixed Penalty Notice of £200 for the first offence, doubling for further offences up to a maximum of £6,400. If you hold, or are involved in holding, an illegal gathering of over 30 people, the police can issue fines of £10,000.

Avoid car sharing with anyone from outside your household or your support bubble. See the [guidance on car sharing](#).

### **Community Centres**

The government updated the [guidance on the opening of community centres](#) on 4 January 2021.



There is specific guidance for various activities, for example youth work [NYA Covid-19 guidance](#)

### **Businesses and venues which must close**

To reduce social contact, the regulations require some businesses to close and impose restrictions on how some businesses provide goods and services. The full list of businesses required to close can be found in the guidance on closing certain businesses and venues in England, but includes:

- Non-essential retail, such as clothing and homeware stores, vehicle showrooms (other than for rental), betting shops, tailors, tobacco and vape shops, electronic goods and mobile phone shops, auction houses (except for auctions of livestock or agricultural equipment) and market stalls selling non-essential goods. These venues can continue to be able to operate click-and-collect (where goods are pre-ordered and collected off the premises) and delivery services.
- Hospitality venues such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs; with the exception of providing food and non-alcoholic drinks for takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect and drive-through. All food and drink (including alcohol) can continue to be provided by delivery.
- Accommodation such as hotels, hostels, guest houses and campsites, except for specific circumstances, such as where these act as someone's main residence, where the person cannot return home, for providing accommodation or support to the homeless, or where it is essential to stay there for work purposes
- Leisure and sports facilities such as leisure centres and gyms, swimming pools, sports courts, fitness and dance studios, riding centres, climbing walls, and golf courses
- Entertainment venues such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, museums and galleries, casinos, amusement arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, skating rinks, go-karting venues, indoor play and soft play centres and areas (including inflatable parks and trampolining centres), circuses, fairgrounds, funfairs, water parks and theme parks
- Animal attractions (such as zoos, safari parks, aquariums, and wildlife centres)
- Indoor attractions at venues such as botanical gardens, heritage homes and landmarks must also close, though outdoor grounds of these premises can stay open for outdoor exercise
- **Community centres and halls must close except for a limited number of exempt activities, as set out below.** Libraries can also remain open to provide



access to IT and digital services – for example for people who do not have it at home – and for click-and-collect services.

Some of these businesses and places will also be permitted to be open for a small number of exempt activities. A full list of exemptions can be found in the [guidance on closing certain businesses and venues in England](#), but includes:

- Education and training – for schools to use sports, leisure and community facilities where that is part of their normal provision
- Childcare purposes and supervised activities for those children eligible to attend
- Hosting blood donation sessions and food banks
- To provide medical treatment
- For elite sports persons to train and compete (in indoor and outdoor sports facilities), and professional dancers and choreographers to work (in fitness and dance studios)
- For training and rehearsal without an audience (in theatres and concert halls)
- For the purposes of film and TV filming

Other businesses and venues are permitted to stay open, following Covid-19 secure guidelines. Businesses providing essential goods and services can stay open. The full list of these businesses can be found in the [guidance on closing certain businesses and venues in England](#), but includes:

- Essential retail such as food shops, supermarkets, pharmacies, garden centres, building merchants and suppliers of building products and off-licences
- Market stalls selling essential retail may also stay open
- Businesses providing repair services may also stay open, where they primarily offer repair services
- Laundrettes and dry cleaners
- Medical and dental services
- Animal rescue centres, boarding facilities and animal groomers (may continue to be used for animal welfare, rather than aesthetic purposes)
- Mobility and disability support shops
- Car parks, public toilets and motorway service areas
- Outdoor playgrounds
- Outdoor parts of botanical gardens and heritage sites for exercise
- Places of worship



**Community facilities in Covid alert level: Stay at Home (Tier 4) areas must close unless they are venues used for providing a small number of exempt activities, including:**

- **Support groups**
- **Childcare provided by a person who is registered under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006 or supervised activities for children**
- **Education or training**
- **Providing essential voluntary services or public support services, including digital access to public services, medical treatment, the provision of food bank or other support for the homeless or vulnerable people, blood donation services or support in an emergency**
- **Voting, counting of votes or activities ancillary to voting or the counting of votes in an election or referendum**

Closed premises can remain open for the delivery of essential voluntary or public services (including the provision of food banks or other support to the homeless or vulnerable, hosting blood donation sessions, or support in an emergency).

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. We are supporting the NHS to carry out urgent and non-urgent services safely, and it is vital anyone who thinks they need any kind of medical care comes forward and seeks help
- Jobcentre Plus sites
- Civil registrations offices
- Services provided to victims

### **Trustee or members meetings**

[Charity Commission guidance on meetings](#) updated on 6 November state that “you can still hold trustee or members’ meetings where these meetings are necessary for providing voluntary or charitable services.” Ideally these should follow the rules in your governing document, but where this isn’t possible trustees should still meet remotely, but record in the minutes why the meeting had to be held.

There is an exemption in place which allows CIOs and charitable companies to hold AGMs online, even where this is not expressly permitted in governing documents. This exemption has been extended to 30 December.



### **Financial support**

All of the government's financial support packages for businesses and other organisations are listed here [Financial support for businesses during coronavirus \(Covid-19\)](#) – including the recently announced measures.