

FAQ ON LOCAL RESTRICTIONS - WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T DO IN LANCASHIRE

The "rule of 6" which was introduced nationwide on Monday (September 14) already limits the number of people who can gather indoors or outdoors to six. This rule is in place across the country and will sit alongside additional restrictions in local areas.

What areas do the new measures cover?

Everywhere in Lancashire except Blackpool.

What are the new measures?

From Tuesday 22 September

- Residents must not socialise with other people outside of their household or protective support bubble in private homes or gardens.
- Hospitality for food and drink must operate table service only.
- Leisure and entertainment venues, including restaurants, pubs and cinemas, must close between 10pm and 5am

Residents are also advised to follow the below guidelines to further reduce the spread of the virus:

- Only use public transport for essential journeys – such as travelling to school or work. A face covering must be worn on public transport unless you are exempt.
 - Avoid attending amateur and semi-professional sporting events as spectators.
- Residents are urged to only visit indoor locations such as restaurants and pubs places with other members of their household or support bubble.

Why are the new measures being introduced?

These measures will help to address the significant rise in coronavirus cases in the region in recent weeks.

There is an increased risk of transmission the more people who gather together. Our data shows an increased rate of transmission in homes, hospitality venues and through grassroots sports. We are doing everything we can to protect our most vulnerable, keep businesses open and children in school, which these measures will help with.

How long will it last?

The measures start from Tuesday 22 September and will be monitored closely and reviewed on a weekly basis. The next steps will depend on the impact the measures have.

Who is allowed into my home?

You must not meet people who you do not live with or are part of a protective support bubble inside your home. However, there are a number of exceptions to this rule listed below:

- To provide emergency assistance
- To attend a birth at the mother's request
- To visit a person who is dying
- To fulfil a legal obligation

- For work, volunteering or charitable purposes
- For education or training purposes
- For the purposes of childcare provided by a registered provider
- To provide care or assistance to a vulnerable person
- To facilitate a house move (this includes viewing a property)
- To continue existing arrangements for access to, and contact between, parents and children where the children do not live in the same household as one or more of their parents.

What is a support bubble?

For the latest information and guidelines on support bubbles visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household>

Are residents required to shield?

For the latest information and guidelines on shielding visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protectingextremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protectingextremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Do these measures affect education?

No. Schools, colleges and universities remain open and are operating in a COVID-secure way.

Can I travel for work or schools?

Yes. People can travel in or out of Lancashire for work and education purposes. Workplaces and schools should be implementing COVID-secure measures.

Do these measures affect childcare?

You can continue to use early years and childcare settings, including childminders and providers offering before or after school clubs or other out-of-school settings for children. You can also continue to employ nannies, including those living outside of the region. Children of parents who are separated can continue to move between households.

Can I visit someone's house in an area not subject to restrictions?

You must not visit anyone's home either within or out of the restricted area except for your support bubble or for the excepted reasons listed above.

Why can I visit the pub but not my relative's house?

This is because the hospitality industry has enhanced measures, such as risk assessments and test and trace, which private homes don't have.

What are the changes for hospitality venues?

Hospitality venues must close between 10pm and 5am.

During open hours businesses must operate table service only including ordering food and drinks

Can I go to the gym, gym class or a swimming pool?

Yes, as long as these venues have the required Covid-secure risk assessments and guidelines in place.

Can I still meet people outside of my household or support bubble in a pub, café or restaurant?

If you live in an area that was not already in local restrictions, the government advice is to only visit these venues with other members of your household (or support bubble).

You can find out more specific information for your area here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-of-england-local-restrictions-what-you-can-andcannot-do>

Can I still meet people outside of my household or support bubble in public outdoor spaces?

The Government advice is to avoid mixing with any additional household in any location to further decrease the risk of spreading the virus.

Can I have someone in my house (or go into someone's house) to do repairs or other work?

Official/registered tradespeople can go to other people's homes for work purposes as long as you follow national guidance on how to work safely there.

What about public transport and car sharing?

Residents are advised to only use public transport for essential purposes, such as travelling to school or work. Face coverings must be worn unless exempt.

You are advised not to share a car with those outside your household or support bubble, and to use public transport for essential journeys instead.

Testing - who can be tested and where

Nationally, testing is becoming a real issue with confusion about who can access a test and where they can access it from.

To address this, attached below are links to summarise where testing can be accessed and in what circumstances for essential or key workers.

Essential or key workers are jobs and roles defined by the Government as key to our care, health and which provide essential services to ensure we can continue to have food, shelter and medication. **This includes teachers** - see the full list of essential workers via the link below. **All essential workers with symptoms, or anyone living with them with symptoms**, can apply for a test. These take priority over the general public.

As essential workers you should notify your employer if you are having to self-isolate with symptoms. Your employer may refer you through the employer referral portal or you may be asked to self-refer.

- Full list of essential workers
- Testing for essential workers

To access a test, **employers are asked to register** at portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk to **obtain a dedicated log-in**. They will then be able to upload the names and contact details of self-isolating essential workers. If referred through this portal, key workers will receive a text message with a unique invitation code to book a test for themselves (if symptomatic) or

their symptomatic household members at a regional testing site or mobile testing unit or to be sent a home testing kit.

If you choose a drive-through you will be directed to a testing centre, where you must follow the rules that apply.

You must have an appointment; if you turn up at a testing centre without an appointment you will be turned away.

Parents of children who have suspected Covid-19 should also be advised that they should not present at a test centre but will need to arrange an appointment in advance.