

Dear resident

From Saturday 26 December the New Forest district will be in Tier 3 (Very High) for coronavirus restrictions.

Other areas in Hampshire are moving to Tier 4 (Stay Home) and you should not visit Tier 4 areas unless it is for an essential reason like work, caring responsibilities, or medical appointments.

Being in Tier 3 means:

- No household mixing indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor spaces (parks and public gardens)
- Everyone who can work from home should do so
- Bars, pubs, restaurants are closed, with the exception of takeaway, drive through or delivery
- Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education, or medical necessity
- Indoor leisure is open, but group activities and classes should not take place
- 15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted
- Places of worship are open, but you cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.
- You can visit relatives in care homes with COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pod, and window visits

This is a summary, for full Tier 3 restrictions see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>

The announcement that the district will move up a Tier comes as the government continues to review a new strain of coronavirus.

Whilst there is no evidence the variant causes more severe illness or higher mortality, it does appear to be passed on significantly more easily.

We must all work together and stick to the rules to keep Hampshire safe and to protect our family, friends, communities and the NHS.

Our essential services, like waste collections, benefit payments and homelessness support, will continue

Please see our website at <https://www.newforest.gov.uk> and search for the service you require for latest information.

Any updates about our services as we respond to the coronavirus are added to our website: <https://newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable:

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

For the latest government information please see <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Advice and support

If coronavirus has had an impact on you or any aspect of your life you can call the Hampshire helpline for advice and support. 0333 370 4000. (Calls charged at local rate.)

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