

Coronavirus update – New Forest Tier 4 (Stay at home)

Health Secretary Matt Hancock has this afternoon announced changes to the tier system in England from 31 December.

From tomorrow (00:01 on Thursday 31 December) the New Forest district will be in Tier 4 (Stay home) for coronavirus restrictions.

The restrictions are broadly the same as a full lockdown and you must stay at home.

Being in Tier 4 means:

- You must stay at home and only travel for work, essential supplies, or medical necessity
- No household mixing, aside from support bubbles, and to meet one other person in a public outdoor place
- Work from home unless you are unable to do so
- No non-essential travel and no travel to other tiers
- Bars, pubs, restaurants, leisure centres, and non-essential shops are closed
- No overnight stays
- You can leave your home to exercise outdoors by yourself, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household

This is just a summary, for full Tier 4 restrictions see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home>

The changes to restrictions, and the New Forest moving from Tier 3 to Tier 4, have been introduced as the current rules are not enough to stop the fast-spreading new variant of coronavirus.

Millions of people in England will be under the toughest restrictions from 31 December as case numbers continue to rise and the health service is under increasing pressure.

Clinically extremely vulnerable

People who are clinically extremely vulnerable are advised to stay at home except for exercise or medical appointments, and not attend work or school. Full guidance:

<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>

Please share this information

We all have a role to play in reducing the cases of coronavirus. Thank you for what you are doing to keep the New Forest safe.

It is everyone's responsibility to follow the rules and take personal responsibility, ensuring you continue to wash your hands, cover your face, and make space, and reduce your social contact by minimising the time you spend out of home as much as possible.

Only 8% of our residents are signed-up to receive these emails so we need your help – please share the information in this email with your family and friends.

Council services

We are urgently reviewing what this latest announcement means for our services.

Essential services, like waste collections, benefit payments and homelessness support, will continue, but please check our website or follow us on social media over the next few days for any changes we may have to make to comply with Tier 4 restrictions.

- Website: <https://newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newforestgov>

- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/newforestdc>

New vaccine approved

The Oxford University/AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine has been approved for use in the UK.

The NHS has already vaccinated hundreds of thousands of patients with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Its roll out will continue alongside the Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine.

The NHS across the UK will prioritise giving the first dose of the vaccine to those in the most high-risk groups, with a second dose to follow within 12 weeks.

Please do not contact the NHS about the vaccine. When it is the right time for you, you will receive an invitation to come forward and be told where to go and what to do.

The new vaccine has met the strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulations Agency (MHRA).

With two vaccines now approved, a greater number of people who are at highest risk will be vaccinated, protecting them from the disease and reducing deaths and starting to ease pressure on our NHS.

It is vital that you continue to play your part, follow the local restrictions and remember hands, face, space, to continue to help suppress the virus and allow the NHS to do its work without being overwhelmed.

More information from the government website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/oxford-universityastrazeneca-vaccine-authorized-by-uk-medicines-regulator>

Celebrate New Year at home

Tier 4 restrictions in the New Forest mean you should stay at home and not mix with people outside your household or support bubble, except to meet one other person in an outdoor public space. This means not meeting up with friends or family outside your household for New Year's Eve, even if you feel well.

One in three people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and will be spreading it without realising it. It is essential that everyone follows the rules.

Government advice <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period>

Travelling out of a Tier 4 area

You must stay at home and not leave your Tier 4 area, other than for legally permitted reasons such as:

- travel to work where you cannot work from home
- travel to education and for caring responsibilities
- visit or stay overnight with people in your support bubble, or your childcare bubble for childcare purposes
- attend hospital, GP and other medical appointments or visits where you have had an accident or are concerned about your health
- to provide emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness, or to escape a risk of harm (such as domestic abuse)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home#travel>

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.)

To stop receiving these emails please email STOP to enews@nfdc.gov.uk

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