



# Information about the new Lancashire COVID-19 Restrictions

A series of new national restrictions introduced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, have been implemented in a bid to address the significant rise in coronavirus cases in recent weeks.

These new measures are on top of the local restrictions already in place in Lancashire and they aim to help stop the spread of the virus by focussing on minimising social mixing.

Whilst the measures are a mixture of legal regulations and guidance, our strong advice to everyone in Lancashire is to follow the rules set out below, especially if we want to protect our most vulnerable, keep our children in schools and keep our businesses open.

The simple fact is that by reducing our social activity, whether through legal restriction or choice, we will limit the spread of the virus and help us move towards the lifting of restrictions.

## Coronavirus restrictions in place for Lancashire

Taking into account all the regulations and guidance, our advice to the people and businesses of Lancashire is as follows:

- Do not socialise with anyone outside of your household or support bubble, either in your house, garden or anywhere else.
- Hospitality venues for food and drink must operate table service only.
- Leisure and entertainment venues, including restaurants, pubs and cinemas, must close between 10pm and 5am.



- Only use public transport for essential journeys – such as travelling to school or work, or medical appointments.
- A face covering must be worn on public transport and in taxis, shops and hospitality venues when not seated, unless you are exempt.
- Avoid attending amateur and semi-professional sporting events as a spectator.
- Only visit indoor locations such as restaurants and pubs with other members of your household or support bubble, in a group of no more than 6.
- People should work from home where possible.
- From Monday 28 September, only 15 people can attend a wedding service and reception - 30 people can still attend a funeral.
- A maximum of six people can take part in indoor team sports.
- Large sports events and conferences, planned from 1 October will not now take place.

## Rules on face coverings

- Customers in private hire vehicles and taxis must wear face coverings.
- Customers in hospitality venues must wear face coverings, except when seated at a table to eat or drink. Staff in hospitality and retail will now also be required to wear face coverings.
- People who are already exempt from the existing face covering obligations, such as because of an underlying health condition, will continue to be exempt from these new obligations.
- Guidance stating that face coverings and visors should be worn in close contact services will now become law.
- Staff working on public transport and taxi drivers will continue to be advised to wear face coverings.



## Rules around childcare

Care bubbles are now allowed to be formed in Lancashire, to allow families to share caring responsibilities with another household.

- Informal carers will be able to provide care for children and vulnerable adults in parts of the country with restrictions on interhousehold mixing.
- Children under 14 will be able to be cared for by individuals outside of their immediate household as part of a care bubble. Arrangements must be part of a consistent childcare relationship.

## Shielding

If you live in one of the following affected wards in Blackburn with Darwen and you are clinically extremely vulnerable, then you should continue to shield until 5 October:

- Audley & Queen's Park
- Bastwell & Daisyfield
- Billinge & Beardwood
- Blackburn Central
- Little Harwood & Whitebirk
- Roe Lee
- Shear Brow & Corporation Park
- Wensley Fold

From 5 October formal shielding will be paused in your area. Instead, guidance will be provided locally about how to manage your risk of exposure to the virus. It's important that you continue to take precautions after 5 October. [Find out more from the general guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people.](#)

## What happens if you break the rules

- Businesses will be fined up to £10,000 and could be closed if they breach regulations.

- The fine for people not wearing face coverings in shops, supermarkets, public transport, taxis and in indoor hospitality will double to £200 for a first time offence, from £100.
- This fine will be the same for those who break the "rule of six".
- People with coronavirus symptoms who do not self-isolate will face fines of £1,000, rising to £10,000 for repeat offences from 28 September.
- If people prevent others from self-isolating - such as bosses threatening redundancy - they can also be fined.

## Remember... Hands, face, space

It is critical that everybody continues to observe the following key behaviours:

- **Hands** - Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.
- **Face** - Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- **Space** - Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.

## Where can I find more information?

For more information about the restrictions in Lancashire visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/coronavirus-restrictions-in-lancashire/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/coronavirus-restrictions-in-lancashire/)

For more information about local restrictions across the North West visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-england-local-restrictions](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-england-local-restrictions)

For more information about the national restrictions in England visit [www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-what-has-changed-22-september](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-what-has-changed-22-september)

# Changes to testing for Covid

**The operational days for walk-up community test sites in parts of Lancashire changed from Thursday 17 September. This is to manage demand in the system arising from constraints on national lab capacity.**

The walk-up community sites are located in Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Preston.

The walk-up community testing stations across Lancashire will now operate from 10am to 3pm, Saturday to Wednesday.

Capacity issues in the national testing system have led to people using the community walk-up sites from other areas. These walk-up community testing sites are specifically for people in areas of intervention, due to higher numbers of cases. People from other areas can be turned away.

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, director of public health for Lancashire County Council, said: "We know that people want to get tested, but there are restrictions in the national system, which are making it harder for us to offer the testing we'd like to do.

"It's important that you get tested if you're showing symptoms, so that we can reduce the spread of Covid. Even milder cases, where people don't end up in hospital, can have serious long-term health impacts.

"By getting tested, you'll know if you need to stay at home so that you don't pass it on to people you know."

Neil Jack, chair of the regional co-ordination group on the Lancashire Resilience Forum, said: "The demand on the community testing sites has increased enormously since schools reopened, due to lack of laboratory capacity in the national system and the restrictions on available appointments at other sites.

"Lancashire has requested additional testing capacity from the Government, to support the needs of our communities."

As part of the students returning to the University of Central Lancashire, an additional testing site is in place for four days on their Vernon Street Car Park. This includes Thursday 24th September and Friday 25th September.

This site is only for people with symptoms, due to national capacity.

The university is working with the Lancashire Resilience Forum to look at future testing arrangements on campus.

Similar mobile testing is being held at the other universities in Lancashire, as part of students' return to campus. Appointments can be booked by the public, but they are primarily to support students and staff.

Appointments are needed at these sites. People should not just turn up. You can book a test online or call 119.

## Booking a test

**Tests can only be booked on the [national online booking portal](#) or by calling 119 if you do not have access to the internet. You cannot book a test in any other way.**

Anyone who tries to book a test and is unable to do so, or who is offered a location or time which is not convenient, should wait a few hours and then try again. More tests are available each day and are allocated based on areas of greatest need and the prevalence of the virus.

As the service is very busy you may have to try more than once to access the service and be offered the location you need.



Do not go to A&E or your GP Practice to get a coronavirus test as you may spread the virus. Both A&E and your GP Practice are unable to assist you in booking a Covid-19 test and cannot provide Covid-19 testing.

Booking a test if you have symptoms is vital to the control of the virus and the saving of lives. **You must self-isolate immediately** and come back to the [Covid-19 online booking portal](#) or the 119 service if you have not been successful. Once you have received a test you must continue to self isolate until you have received a negative result.



# NHS update

**Last week NHS England and NHS Improvement wrote to all GPs and their commissioners regarding the importance of providing face to face appointments for patients who need them. We know that some patients are confused about how to access GP services and the availability of different appointment types.**

GP practices are open and continue to provide services as they have done throughout the pandemic. This means that for patients, their GP practice is open and providing GP services.


GP practice buildings are public buildings and as such must be kept Covid-secure. GP practices already have processes in place for managing entry into the premises to help minimise the risk of anybody spreading the virus. GPs are asking people to continue to follow this.

New ways of providing GP services have been introduced in order to maintain access to GP practice teams whilst protecting patients, others and staff. Triage (making an assessment of your condition and prioritising care accordingly) is an important part of how GP practices work. This has always been in place but has been vitally important during the pandemic.

The use of digital technologies has been shown to improve patient experiences thanks to the convenience and increased access that they provide. GPs want to make sure that these new ways of working and the benefits they bring are not lost. Covid-19 has changed many aspects of our daily lives, with lots of positive changes. These new ways of accessing your GP and receiving care or treatment are just some of these.

The threat of infection from Covid-19 still exists within our communities. Locally, patients are being asked to continue to follow the guidance, stick to any restrictions in place and take the necessary precautions such as wearing face coverings and practicing good hygiene.

Information and materials to help promoting these messages have been shared with GPs in Lancashire and South Cumbria for use by their practices. Local Clinical Commissioning Group communications teams will also be undertaking a range of additional activity to help support GP practices to promoting these messages.



# #noexcuseforabuse

noexcuseforabuse.co.uk

## #noexcuseforabuse interim review

**The LRF's COVID-19 domestic abuse campaign, #noexcuseforabuse reached its interim review point last month. The review has enabled us to assess the impact of the campaign to date and make any adjustments necessary to continue to support those experiencing domestic abuse across Lancashire.**

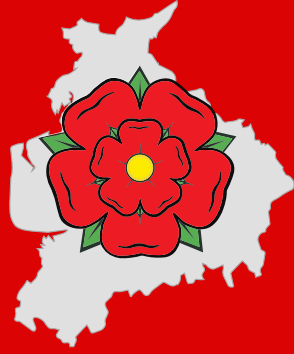
The initial findings are positive and have highlighted that social media activity has generated significant engagement across the county, resulting in an increased number of visits to our campaign site and/or to related domestic abuse support websites.

However, to ensure the campaign reaches those who do not have access to digital resources, we have developed a number of other tactics that will support the campaign to reach those people who are excluded from online support.

These include:

- Additional airtime with Rock FM
- Lip balm giveaways with helpline information displayed in the bar code
- Window/bumper stickers

There is further information and support resources on the campaign website [www.noexcuseforabuse.co.uk](http://www.noexcuseforabuse.co.uk)



# Lancashire Resilience Forum

## Share the content

Like what you see? Then please do share this content to your stakeholders. As a trusted voice in your community, it is important that the messages and stories in this stakeholder briefing are shared widely so that people know what is happening in their local area to combat the spread. Communications tools have been made available for use on social media channels. This is a team effort so don't be afraid to get involved.

## Get involved

We have a wide range of resources available for you to share across your channels.

Please visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/coronacommsresources/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/coronacommsresources/) and use the content to get our messages across

## Get the data

Every week we publish latest coronavirus for Lancashire at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/covidweekly/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/covidweekly/)

## Contact details:

Follow: @LancsResilience on Twitter  
and LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/lancsresilience](https://www.linkedin.com/company/lancsresilience)  
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