

# Member Briefing

Number: 1588

**Title:** Cheshire West and Chester COVID-19 restrictions

**Summary:** Government announces new COVID-19 restrictions for Cheshire West following rapid rise in infections across the borough.

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## Background

The Government has today announced a new three-tier system of restrictions across England, dividing the country into three Local COVID Alert Levels – medium, high and very high – depending on infection rate. It has confirmed that Cheshire West and Chester will be in a high Local COVID Alert Level area.

As well as the existing national restrictions, the high level will see people prohibited from socialising with other households indoors, although support bubbles will still be permitted. The rule of six will apply outdoors.

This means:

- People must not socialise with anybody outside of their household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.
- People must not socialise in a group of more than six outside, including in a garden or other spaces like beaches or parks.
- Businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-Secure manner, other than those which remain closed in law.
- Certain businesses selling food or drink on their premises are required to close between 10pm and 5am. Businesses and venues selling food for consumption off the premises, can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through.
- Schools, universities and places of worship remain open.
- Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees.
- Exercise classes and organised sport can continue to take place outdoors. These will only be permitted indoors if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or share a support bubble with).
- People can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, for work or to access education.

The regulations will be considered by Parliament tomorrow and if approved we expect they will be in force from Wednesday.

The Council will work with businesses and communities to guide them through these changes. The Council has also been in discussions with officials about a local package of support to accompany these changes and further clarity will be sought in the coming days.

Now that the information has been shared, further communications and frequently asked questions will be published on the Council website as soon as possible.

Members are asked to pass on this information to their contacts in the community.

Resources, including images for social media and posters to download and print, will also be available for Members to access and will be shared in the near future.

**For further information contact:** Ian Ashworth

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**Responsible Committee, Cabinet Member:** Cllr Louise Gittins

**Date:** 12 October 2020