

Higher activity restrictions: England and Wales

Summary

In England, even at the highest level of COVID alert (Tier 3) there is no stated restriction on carrying out work in domestic or other residential or even commercial settings, provided the activity is carried out in line with **COVID secure guidelines**. These guidelines are referenced below. The situation is broadly similar in Wales.

However, noting rules and restrictions may vary locally (even though this is not common) it is advisable to check the latest information from government and local authority sources.

Tier 3 measures and restrictions

The following applies to England, and the devolved nations may have different rules and restrictions (e.g. see Wales: firebreak below).

The highest level of local restriction is Tier 3 (very high alert level).

To find out if the area where you intend to carry out commercial activity is covered by additional rules and restrictions under a higher alert (Higher Tier) level go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/full-list-of-local-covid-alert-levels-by-area>

You may also enter a relevant postcode at: <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

Restrictions under Tier 3

To find out about restrictions under Tier 3 (very high alert) see:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-very-high>

Under the Tier 3 heading, the most relevant official text includes (hyperlinked below):

Visiting other venues, including restaurants, pubs
Protecting people more at risk from coronavirus
Business and venues*
Going to work
Travel

***Business and venues** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-very-high#business-and-venues>

This says “All businesses...should follow the relevant COVID-secure guidelines** to protect customers...and workers”.

e.g. the 'COVID secure' guidance for **working in other people's homes is at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/homes>

Background notes on COVID alert Tier 3

Restrictions placed on areas with a 'very high' (Tier 3) level can vary and are based on discussions between central and local government. 'Very high' rules and advice *include (this is not the full list)*:

- try to avoid travelling outside the very high alert level area you are in or entering a very high alert level area, other than for things like work...or if you are travelling through as part of a longer journey
- avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK if you are resident in a very high alert level area or avoid staying overnight in a very high alert level area if you are resident elsewhere.

You should continue to:

- follow social distancing rules
- work from home where you can effectively do so
- travel to venues that are open e.g. for work or to access education but aim to reduce the number of journeys you make.

You must also wear a face covering in areas where this is mandated.

Note: there is separate and additional guidance for households with a possible or confirmed coronavirus infection.

Note: **construction site activities** are also covered by the CLC's Site Operating Procedures v6 (SOP 6) at: <https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/news/site-operating-procedures-update-version-6-now-available/>

Wales: Firebreak

Regarding the temporary 'firebreak' in Wales (which started on 23 October). The Welsh Government has advised that:

- Builders merchants and hardware stores can remain open
- Work can continue in people's homes during this period, provided it is **COVID-secure**.

For the official position in Wales, please see <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-firebreak-frequently-asked-questions#section-53255>

Northern Ireland - Work and services carried out in private homes

- Workers, builders, tradespeople and other professionals can continue to go into people's houses to carry out work such as repairs, installations and deliveries.
- More information: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>