

Essex's Tier 2 Restrictions

The Government has announced that the majority of the country, including the County of Essex, is to be placed in the revised [Tier 2 Restrictions](#) when the current lockdown is lifted this coming Wednesday (2nd December).



TIER 2
HIGH ALERT
from Wed 2 Dec

Last week, HM Government announced details of a new three tiered system, which sees a tightening of restrictions involved in all previously instituted tiers. Under the updated Tier 2 restrictions, social mixing of individual households will not be allowed indoors, & the *Rule of Six* will still apply outdoors. Pubs, bars and restaurants can open, but only to serve alcohol with substantial meal. Businesses, including shops can open, in a [Covid-19 secure](#) manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs.



Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care or Health, said: "In October, Council Leaders across Essex unanimously made the decision to request Essex be placed into Tier 2 restrictions due to the exponential growth in cases of coronavirus across the county. When we recommended entry into Tier 2, national lockdown had been ruled out as an option. Subsequently it re-emerged, so actually, the impact of our recommendation on Essex was short lived. However, the decision had a positive impact. In the weeks following entry to Tier 2 there was a significant flattening of the upward curve and regionally, Essex's case rate reduced, from being in the top three Council areas to the bottom two. Following national lockdown, we saw infection rates in other counties respond more quickly than ours, but both case rates and hospital occupancy are now stable. The government's new tiering criteria are more stringent than those that we left behind.

"We recognise that there is still work to be done. We understand that going back into Tier 2 will be hard for many, but we must all work together, follow the restrictions in order to save further lives and continue to protect our NHS. We are committed to supporting residents and businesses through these unprecedented times. We have a clear incentive. Our aim is to bring the rate of transmission and Covid-19 hospital occupancy down so that Essex can be placed in the lowest tier of restrictions as quickly as possible. With the help of everyone who lives and works here we can achieve this. Now more than ever, we need people to follow the rules of hand, face, space, work from home if possible, and always socially distance."

In order to further support Essex businesses through these restrictions, this week, ECC and District, Borough and City Council colleagues, have launched grant funding worth over a total of £30 million, to support businesses and enable them to adapt their premises. Businesses can apply through their Local District, Borough or City Council website. ECC remain committed to supporting the county's most vulnerable residents. Through the Essex Welfare Service, the County Council is offering practical, emotional and specialist support. Earlier this month the Council also announced £1.5 million of winter support for children, families and the most vulnerable.



What Does Tier 2 Mean for You?

- You must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or whom is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.
- You must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the ‘*Rule of Six*.’
- Businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a Covid-19 secure manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs.
- Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals.
- Hospitality businesses selling food & drink for consumption on site are required to:
 - 1) Provide table service only, in premises which sell alcohol,
 - 2) Close between 11pm & 5am (hospitality venues in airports, ports, transport services and motorway service areas are exempted from this),
 - 3) Stop taking orders after 10pm.
- Hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off site can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or a drive-through.
- Early closure (11pm) applies to casinos, cinemas, theatres, museums, bowling alleys, amusement arcades, funfairs, theme parks, adventure parks and activities, and bingo halls. Cinemas, theatres and concert halls can stay open beyond 11pm in order to conclude performances that start before 10pm.
- Public attendance at out & indoor events (performances/ shows) is permitted, limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 in.
- Public attendance at spectator sport and business events can resume inside and out, subject to social contact rules and limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 in.
- Places of worship remain open but you must not socialise with people from outside your household or support bubble while you are indoors there, unless a legal exemption applies.
- Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on numbers of attendees: 15 people can attend wedding ceremonies and receptions, 30 people can attend funeral ceremonies, and 15 people can attend linked commemorative events such as wakes or stone settings.
- Organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue.
- Organised indoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes will only be permitted if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or share a support bubble with). There are exceptions for indoor disability sport, sport for educational purposes and supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing.
- You can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, but should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible.
- If you live in a Tier 2 area, you must continue to follow Tier 2 rules when you travel to a Tier 1 area. Avoid travel to, or overnight stays in, Tier 3 areas wherever possible.

TIER 2: HIGH

No household mixing indoors
Rule of six will apply outdoors
Pubs and restaurants to shut at 11pm
Alcohol only served as part of substantial meal
Spectators allowed at sports events and live performances (limited numbers)
Personal care including hairdressing allowed