

## Worcestershire moves into Tier 3

The Government announced Worcestershire will move into Tier 3 of national restrictions from 31<sup>st</sup> December following a rise of Coronavirus cases.

Confirmed cases in the county have increased by 40% over the last 7 days with 212 per 100,000 people now testing positive for Coronavirus.

From 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, everyone in Worcestershire will need to observe Tier 3 restrictions.

Tier 3 restrictions include:

- No mixing of households, apart from support bubbles, indoors or in private gardens apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six can meet outdoors in some outdoor public spaces
- Hospitality settings, such as bars pubs, cafes, restaurants, and social clubs must close except for takeaway, delivery and click and collect services.
- Accommodation such as hotels, B&Bs, campsites, holiday lets and guest houses must close.
- Entertainment venues must close
- You should stay local and avoid travelling outside of your local area meaning your village or town, or part of a city.

The full list of restrictions is available on the [dedicated restrictions pages of the Government's website](#).

These restrictions are considered necessary because the infection rate is increasing, and a new variation of Covid-19 is spreading fast.

There is no evidence that the new variant causes more severe disease, but it does spread more easily so new restrictions are needed to protect everyone.

### **Dr Kathryn Cobain, Director for Public Health for Worcestershire said:**

“From 31<sup>st</sup> December we need to follow these new stricter measures which have been put into place to protect us all.

“We are in a position where our trajectory shows if we don’t do something now, cases in the county are likely to double within 2 weeks.

“With the increase in cases and with the new faster spreading variant being identified in areas of the country, these stricter measures are being brought into place to stop the spread of the virus. It won’t be easy for the residents of Worcestershire, but we can pull together to reduce the number of Covid-19 cases.

“It is up to us all to follow the new rules and to continue to follow social distancing guidelines, wear a face covering, wash our hands regularly and limit our travel and contacts as these remain the best ways to fight against the virus.”

**Councilor John Smith, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board added:** “These new measures will be tougher but are needed to help stop the case numbers rising further and to stop the further spread of the virus in our county. We have all seen the good news about the vaccination program but while the vaccines are being rolled out, we must keep working together to reduce the transmission of the virus. If we all play our part and follow the new rules, we will keep the people of Worcestershire safe.”

For the latest information on the restrictions, please visit [the dedicated Coronavirus webpage on the County Council's website](#)