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COVID-19 Proposed Social Distancing Framework

- Local Conveners Briefing Aid
- 30 September 2020

Three local alert levels of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) for the effective management of risk

An integrated framework of social contact and business NPIs to control the spread of the virus in a targeted and proportional way, underpinned by existing decision-making processes

Level 1

Local Alert Level 1 represents the baseline, the minimum level of restrictions applicable to all of England.

Level 2

Local Alert Level 2 is triggered in geographical areas or nationally when there has been a rise in transmission, which cannot be contained through local responses

Level 3

Local Alert Level 3 is triggered in geographical areas or nationally when Alert Level 2 measures have not contained the spread of the virus, or where there has been a significant rise in transmission.

Effective NPIs for managing risk in different alert levels

Level 1 Alert Level 1 represents the baseline, the minimum level of restrictions applicable to all of England.

Social Contact

- Rule of 6
- Childcare bubbles (for under-15s/years 9 and 10) children (or vulnerable adults) where necessary for caring purposes (to be a consistent childcare relationship, not for playdates).
- Wedding and civil partnership ceremonies and services up to 15 attendees
- Funeral up to 30 attendees only
- Significant event gatherings up to 15 only
- Support groups up to 15 only
- No mass events e.g. sports events and pilot performances
- Organised Sport only allowed outdoors Visiting indoor hospitality/leisure/retail settings under Rule

Businesses

- All sectors which are permitted to open by law can remain so providing they meet Covid19-Secure guidance.
- Face coverings and/or screens for all workers in indoor hospitality (chefs, waiting staff, etc.) and customers apart from when seated
- Curfews on business operating hours. Leisure and entertainment venue must be closed between 10pm and 5am. Can continue delivery after 10pm.
- Food and drink venues will be table service only.
- More stringent Covid19 secure guidance and enforcement. Where possible, WFH should be encouraged

Effective NPIs for managing risk in different alert levels

Level 2

Alert Level 2 is triggered in geographical areas or nationally when there has been a rise in transmission, which cannot be contained through local responses

Social Contact

In addition to alert level 1 restrictions (except where noted):

- Must not meet others outside of their household in private dwellings (apart from support bubble) including outside space in the home i.e. gardens [Replace alert level 1 restriction]
 - Visiting indoor hospitality/leisure/retail settings is restricted to one household i.e. two households must not meet in these settings (unless those two households are in a support bubble) even if the total headcount is . [Replaces alert level 1 restriction]
 - People are advised only to visit care homes in exceptional circumstances
 - People should only travel for essential reasons
 - You can still go on holiday outside of your area, but you should only do this with people you live with (or have formed a support bubble with).
 - People can play a team sport only where this is formally organised by a sports club or similar organisation, and sports-governing body guidance has been issued.
- People should not attend amateur or professional sporting events as a spectator in the areas affected.
 - People should only travel for essential reasons
 - People can holiday outside of your area but should only do so with the people they live with or have formed a social bubble with
 - Weddings are permitted to have 15 attendees and receptions are not permitted
 - Funerals are limited to 15 attendees

Effective NPIs for managing risk in different alert levels

Level 3

Alert Level 3 is triggered in geographical areas or nationally when alert level 2 measures have not contained the spread of the virus, or where there has been a significant rise in transmission. - Likely that the Merseyside Regulations will be used, this is not yet confirmed.

This will be a short-list of NPIs (TBC) that can be applied as appropriate in areas that are high risk and moving into alert level 3.

Social Contact

In addition to alert level 1 and alert level 2 measures unless noted a replacement:

- No social contact outside your household in any setting [replaces alert level 2 restriction]
- Restrictions on overnight stays away from home (in a private residence in the area under local restrictions) [replaces alert level 2 restriction]
- Places of worship can remain open No organised non-professional sports permitted/other communal hobby groups/activities (e.g. social clubs in community centres) [Replaces alert level 2 restriction]

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Businesses

In addition to alert level 1 and alert level 2 measures:

- Closure of hospitality and leisure businesses [replaces alert level 2 restriction]

Evidence for an alert level approach to social distancing

- Using the most effective measures:
 - SAGE has given a consensus that a package of measures rather than single NPIs will be most effective in controlling the spread of the virus.
 - Preventing household mixing and closing businesses and venues in which there is close social interaction was recommended as the best way to reduce R.
 - Evidence of the impact of local restrictions has also shown that increases in transmission are largely driven by social contact between people that know each other.
- Increasing compliance:
 - Research tells us that people would welcome a clearer and simpler structure to the advice and rules that they should follow.
 - Many people do not have a clear understanding of the rules that apply to them.