

## ‘3 tier’ COVID alert system

Following the announcement by HM Government yesterday, introducing the ‘3 Tier’ COVID alert system across the UK to combat the spread of COVID-19, Birmingham, Sandwell, Solihull, Wolverhampton and Walsall are now under ‘Tier 2 - High’ restrictions and guidance. These rules will apply from 00.01 on Wednesday 14 October.

The national CofE Recovery Group, have issued the following announcement,

*We note the announcement from the Prime Minister introducing a new three-tier alert system intended to control the spread of coronavirus in England.*

*We will continue to work with Government departments to assess how the system might affect places of worship.*

*We will study regulations when laid and will amend any advice to churches accordingly.*

As information becomes available we will continue to notify you, and include advice specific to the CofEB context, as appropriate.

A full list of [Local COVID alert levels by area](#) is available on the Government website.

[Government restrictions for the local COVID alert level: High \(Tier 2\)](#), are described on the Government website as follows,

- On top of restrictions in alert level medium,
- you must not socialise with anybody outside of your household or 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 outside, including in a garden or other spaces like beaches or parks (other than where specific exemptions apply in law)
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-secure manner, other than those that remain closed in law

- certain businesses are required to ensure customers only consume food and drink while seated, and must 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, or for youth or disability sport
- you can continue to travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but should look to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible

You must:

- [wear a face covering in those areas where this is mandated](#)

You should continue to:

- follow social distancing rules
- work from home where you can effectively do so
- walk or cycle where possible, or plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport

Find out more about the measures that apply in the High level alert area to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 on the [Government website](#).

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with your Area Dean or with one of us, if you have specific questions or concerns.

As always, please be assured of our prayers,

***Jenny Tomlinson, Archdeacon of Birmingham***

***Simon Heathfield, Archdeacon of Aston***