

Covid-19 Update

Coronavirus Emergency Committee

7 December 2020

UK Covid-19 Position

- Whilst cases have continued to drop throughout most of England, reduction has slowed and reversed in some areas including Stevenage, Hertfordshire, London, Essex, Central Bedfordshire and Luton.
- 7 day rolling daily average hospital admission for Covid-19 patients was 1,365 on 5 Dec, down 18.3% in 2 weeks from 1,671 on 19 Nov
- 7 day rolling daily average Coronavirus-related deaths at 441 on 3 Dec up 9% from 405 on 19 Nov.
- The latest UK & England 'R' rate is down to 0.8-1.0 on 4th December
The East of England 'R' rate has also slightly decreased to 0.9-1.0

Cases, Deaths & Admissions update daily 4pm <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>

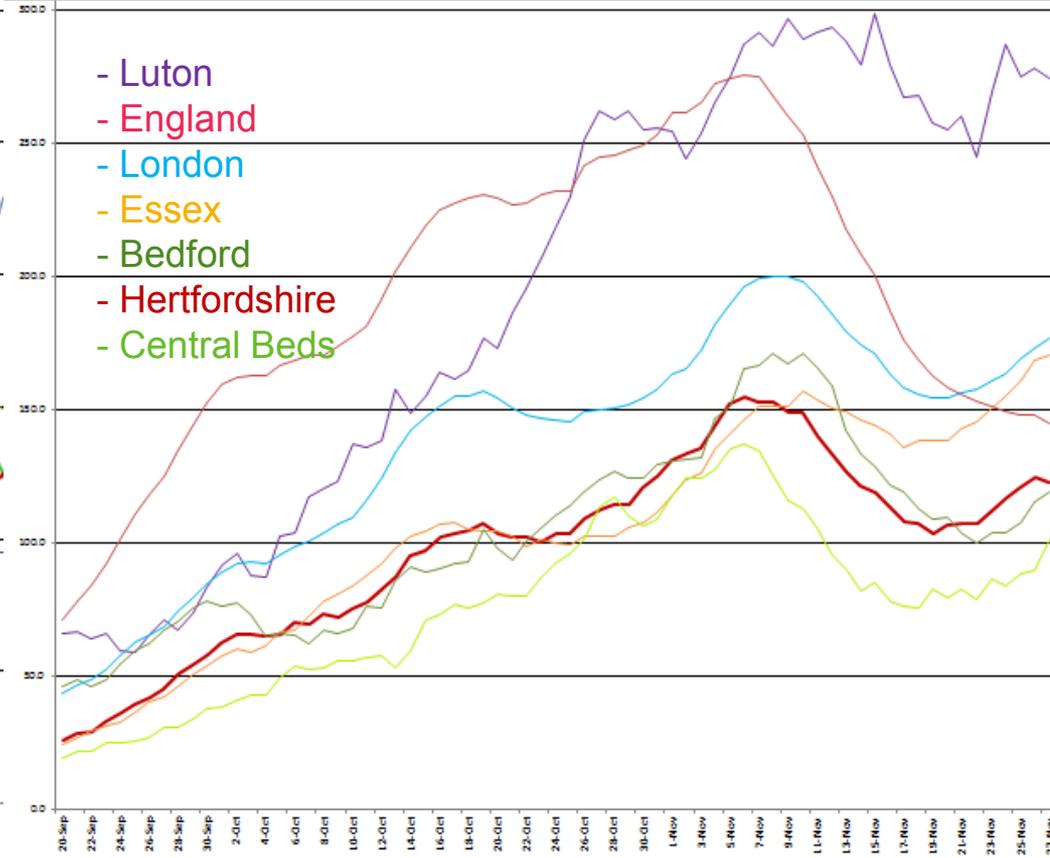
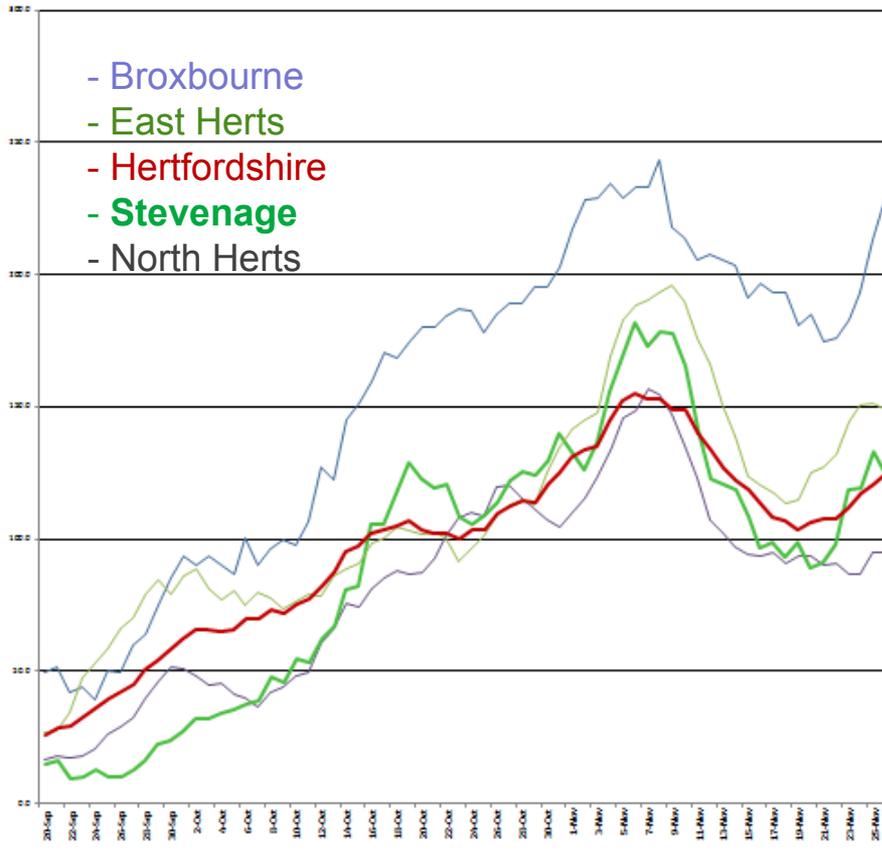
R rate updates every Friday afternoon www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk

Local & National Epidemiology

*provisional	Broxbourne	Watford	Hertsmere	East Herts	Three River	St Albans	Dacorum	Welwyn H	Stevenage	North Herts	Hertfordshire	England	Central Beds	Bedford	Essex	London	Luton
week change	40	51	8	48	-18	15	11	8	9	1	172	-17,742	72	0	513	1,629	15
*14.11 - 20.11 / 100,000	234.4	174.0	145.8	149.6	122.2	112.5	111.1	111.3	109.3	95.8	138.2	144.7	101.2	119.5	170.2	176.8	274.6
*21.11 - 27.11	228	168	153	224	114	167	172	137	96	128	1,459	81,437	292	207	2,535	15,843	585
previous week change	-20	-76	-35	-108	-36	-74	-33	-44	-58	-54	-484	-43,246	-106	-90	-314	-3,530	-46
*14.11 - 20.11 / 100,000	193.3	121.1	138.2	117.5	141.4	102.4	104.0	104.8	99.0	95.1	121.9	176.2	76.2	119.5	135.8	158.6	267.5
*21.11 - 27.11	188	117	145	176	132	152	161	129	87	127	1,287	99,179	220	207	2,022	14,214	570
14.11 - 20.11 / 100,000	213.8	199.8	171.6	189.7	180.0	152.2	125.4	140.6	165.1	135.5	167.7	253.0	112.9	171.4	156.9	198.0	289.1
14.11 - 20.11	208	193	180	284	168	226	194	173	145	181	1,771	142,425	326	297	2,336	17,744	616
07.11 - 13.11 / 100,000	233.3	188.5	155.4	188.3	203.6	166.4	126.0	160.9	182.1	148.2	174.6	275.8	137.2	165.0	146.4	196.4	287.3
07.11 - 13.11	227	182	163	282	190	247	195	198	168	198	1,844	155,235	396	286	2,180	17,601	612
31.10 - 06.11 / 100,000	195.3	177.1	117.2	124.9	123.2	107.8	113.1	164.2	129.8	107.1	136.1	249.3	106.4	124.1	107.8	154.5	254.9
31.10 - 06.11	190	171	123	187	115	160	175	202	114	143	1,437	140,309	307	215	1,605	13,844	543
24.10 - 30.10 / 100,000	187.1	176.0	135.3	91.5	95.4	70.7	78.8	120.3	108.1	107.8	112.7	230.5	87.0	105.6	101.1	146.8	207.0
24.10 - 30.10	182	170	142	137	89	105	122	148	95	144	1,190	129,732	251	183	1,505	13,160	441
17.10 - 23.10 / 100,000	159.3	139.8	137.2	98.2	125.4	86.9	101.4	112.2	105.9	80.9	115.1	225.3	73.1	90.0	106.7	151.2	163.8
17.10 - 23.10	155	135	144	147	117	129	157	138	93	108	1,215	126,791	211	156	1,589	13,555	349
10.10 - 16.10 / 100,000	99.7	103.5	107.7	73.5	99.7	58.6	70.4	86.1	45.5	44.2	81.0	173.4	55.4	65.8	80.4	107.0	123.0
10.10 - 16.10	97	100	113	110	93	87	109	106	48	59	855	97,609	160	114	1,197	9,586	262
03.10 - 09.10 / 100,000	90.5	96.3	85.8	88.8	93.2	55.9	65.3	63.4	31.9	47.9	74.0	162.2	41.2	77.3	60.0	92.3	96.2
03.10 - 09.10	88	93	90	133	87	83	101	78	28	64	781	91,272	119	134	894	8,271	205
26.09 - 02.10 / 100,000	50.4	60.1	54.3	58.8	42.9	42.4	42.6	30.9	10.2	26.2	44.3	110.7	25.3	59.4	36.3	62.5	59.1

Following a week where confirmed cases numbers came down across the board, unfortunately provisional data for last week (to Fri 4 Dec) shows a reversal in Stevenage and almost all Herts boroughs, London, Essex, Central Beds and Luton.

Local & National Epidemiology



Covid-19 Related Deaths in Hertfordshire

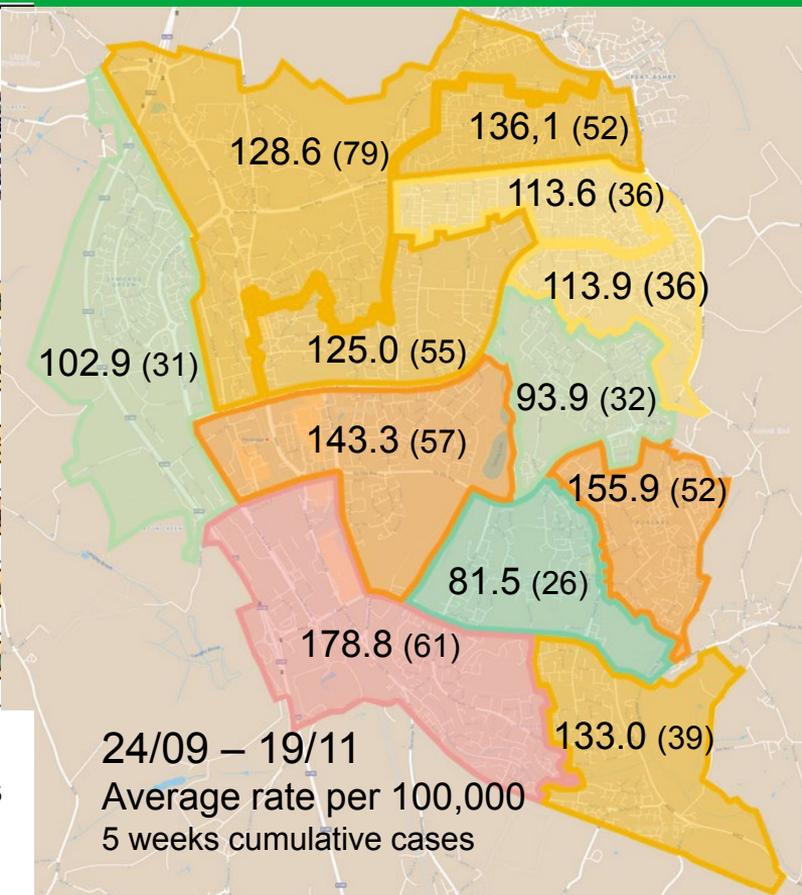
www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/datasets/deathregistrationsandoccurrencesbylocalauthorityandhealthboard

Week	Hertsmere	Watford	Three Rivers	St Albans	Welwyn Hatfield	Dacorum	Broxbourne	North Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	Stevenage	Total
Total last 10 weeks	18	16	14	17	2	18	12	5	6	2	110
14/11 – 20/11	3	3	7	7	1	4	1	1	3	0	30
07/11 – 13/11	2	2	1	3	0	1	4	1	0	0	14
31/10 – 6/11	3	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	11
24/10 – 30/10	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	8
17/10 – 23/10	3	5	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	15
10/10 – 16/10	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	9
03/10 – 09/10	1	1	2	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	11
26/09 – 02/10	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
19/09 – 25/09	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
12/09 – 18/09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
05/09 – 11/09	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
29/08 – 04/09	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Rate per 100,000	193.5	147.0	109.3	105.1	93.5	93.0	91.5	77.1	71.5	70.6	102.8
Total	203	142	102	156	115	144	89	103	107	62	1,223

- Covid-19 related deaths in Hertfordshire have increased in the most recent week data is available, doubling to 30.
- As death occur some weeks after confirmed infection, these higher numbers can be expected for a few weeks more.
- In the most recent two weeks (7-20 Nov), there was no additional Covid-19 related death of a Stevenage resident, reflecting the town's delayed increase in cases.

Stevenage confirmed cases Geography

	Roe buck	Bandley Hill	Bedwell	St Nicholas	Longmeadow	Woodfield + Old Town	Pin Green + Old Town	Martins Wood	Manor	Symonds Green	Chells	Shephall	Stevenage
Week													
5 week average rate	178.8	155.9	143.3	136.1	133.0	128.6	125.0	113.6	113.9	102.9	93.9	81.5	128.6
5 week total cases	61	52	57	52	39	79	55	36	35	31	32	26	55
20.11 - 26.11 rate	205.2	119.9	125.7	78.5	85.3	48.8	102.3	110.4	0.0	116.2	88.0	94.1	99.1
20.11 - 26.11 cases	14	8	10	6	5	6	9	7	0	7	6	6	10
13.11 - 19.11 rate	131.9	164.9	226.3	117.8	119.4	105.8	113.7	110.4	65.1	83.0	146.7	78.4	128.6
13.11 - 19.11 cases	9	11	18	9	7	13	10	7	4	5	10	5	11
06.11 - 12.11 rate	234.5	164.9	163.4	222.5	170.6	244.1	204.6	126.2	97.6	116.2	88.0	94.1	164.1
06.11 - 12.11 cases	16	11	13	17	10	30	18	8	6	7	6	6	11
30.10 - 05.11 rate	161.2	179.9	62.9	143.9	153.5	154.6	90.9	157.7	146.4	99.6	88.0	47.0	128.6
30.10 - 05.11 cases	11	12	5	11	9	19	8	10	9	6	6	3	11
23.10 - 29.10 rate	161.2	149.9	138.3	117.8	136.4	89.5	113.7	63.1	260.3	99.6	58.7	94.1	128.6
23.10 - 29.10 cases	11	10	11	9	8	11	10	4	16	6	4	6	11



Over the last five weeks, confirmed cases of have been spread across the town with no ward/msoa consistently higher than others with 8 having briefly topped a rate of over 200/100,000 for a week, with Roebuck the only ward having surpassed twice, and Shepha the only ward consistently below a 100/100,000 rate.

Insights on tier assessment

The five indicators on which the JBC are assessing tiers:

- case detection rates in all age groups,
- case detection rates in the over 60s
- the rate at which cases are rising or falling.
- the positivity rate – the number of positive cases detected as a percentage of tests taken
- pressure on the NHS, current & projected occupancy.

National Update

- Reviewed Tier system approved by Parliament and now live
- Over a million tests to be sent to care homes over the next month to ensure care home residents can see their families at Christmas
- Shops will be allowed to stay open longer in the run-up to Christmas and in January
- One-off £1000 Christmas grant for 'wet-led pubs' in tiers two and three. This is on top of the existing £3000 monthly cash grant.
- Tier 3 areas are being invited by the Government to apply for support for community testing to help drive down transmission.
- £16 million funding to be delivered across England through the charity FareShare which will allow local charities to distribute food to people struggling as a result of the pandemic.
- Vitamin D supplements to be offered to at-risk groups this winter

Covid-19 Vaccinations Update

- The MHRA has approved Pfizer/BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine as safe
- The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (CVI) has agreed that vaccinations should be prioritised as follows:
 - Residents and staff working in care homes for older adults and carers
 - All those aged 80 and over, frontline health and social care workers
 - All those aged 75 and over
 - All those aged 70 and over and clinically vulnerable individuals (not pregnant women and those under 18 years of age)
 - All those aged 65 and over
 - All individuals aged 18-65 with underlying health conditions
 - All those aged 60 and over
 - All those aged 55 and over
 - All those aged 50 and over
- Once this phase is complete, the JCVI has suggested those at increased risk of contracting the virus due to their occupation, including first responders, military personnel, teachers and public services could be prioritised

Hertfordshire Mass Vaccinations

- Three different delivery methods will be applied in order to reach all parts of the population:
 - hospital hubs – where we know the Pfizer vaccine can be stored safely
 - local vaccine services – provided by GPs and pharmacies
 - vaccination centres – large sites convenient for transport networks
- SBC continuing to work with the NHS (including Primary Care Trusts) Hertfordshire County Council and other Districts and Boroughs to roll out vaccine pods in response to mass vaccination programme.
- Further announcements expected this week about Vaccination Centres in Stevenage and when they may go live

Hertfordshire Resilience Update

- Health Economy TCG and VPAC working on vaccine processes and staff resourcing and co-ordinating volunteering
- Hospital Trust - acute admissions are still rising. East and North Herts Health Trust seeing reduced Critical Care demand, this is now mirrored in other areas
- First walk-through COVID testing sites are now open at the University of Hertfordshire's de Havilland campus in Hatfield and County Hall in Hertford
- Two fixed locations (East and West) and a mobile capacity being proposed for community testing. Scalable plan to be produced to bring capacity up to one testing site per district if required.
- Student testing has commenced in order to allow students to return home to their families. This could result in an increase in positive cases reported in the County over the next few weeks

Hertfordshire Resilience Update

- PPE requirements to support 2021 election being discussed.
- Care Home Cell is carrying out a root cause analysis of outbreaks. 16 care homes in the County selected for Lateral Flow testing.
- Series of tools and guides have been developed for both sports clubs and out of school activities to help them operate Covid securely
- **Communications:**
 - Move to Tier 2.
 - Vaccination with potential strapline of ***“Get your life back to normal”***.
 - Christmas: ***“Don’t let your guard down at Christmas”*** campaign
 - Promoting the self-isolation and domestic abuse campaign
 - Covid marshals

Outbreak management

- Contact tracing visits now incorporating self-isolation support
- Common exposure settings follow-up
- Small number of workplace clusters under investigation
- Self-isolation/enforcement programme has been rolled out

**PLAY
YOUR
PART**

Compliance and enforcement

- Initial covid marshalling plan stood-up 2nd December
- New business restrictions implemented including non-essential retail
- Support offered to businesses via face-to-face visits
- Hardship Fund to help those on CTS up to £150 is now live
- Track and Trace-self isolation payments of £500 are also available

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TIER 2 HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY	BAR, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS	RETAIL	WORK AND BUSINESS
No meeting of households indoors, outdoor gatherings, parties or celebrations.	Bars and pubs must close, unless operating as restaurants, including those who only serve alcohol and takeaway food, restaurants that bring orders in, high and street food to go.	Open	Businesses who can work from home should do so.
EDUCATION	INDOOR LEISURE	ACCOMMODATION	PERSONAL CARE
Less than 10 people, school colleges and universities must close, only essential activities, such as sports, and essential activities in halls.	Open	Open	Open
OVERNIGHT STAYS	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS	ENTERTAINMENT	PLACES OF WORSHIP
Overnight stays restricted to support bubbles.	Up to 10 people for weddings, not including wedding receptions and music, in the function.	Open	Open. All events must comply with social contact restrictions in support bubbles.
TRAVELLING	EXERCISE	RESIDENTIAL CARE	LARGE EVENTS
Reduce the number of people who travel and only short or essential travel. Only short or essential travel, only with those outside of your household, and only for essential reasons, such as work or education, with a maximum of 10 people.	Open and support all 100m or shorter routes, but avoid open water recreation. Focus on outdoor recreation, including walking, cycling and dog walking, and avoid large group or outdoor sports, such as football, rugby or netball.	Only 100 beds arrangements such as sheltered housing, care homes, and assisted living, nursing homes and residential care and care homes for older people.	Open. The performance and delivery of events should be fully open to the public, with no social contact restrictions in support bubbles, including for entertainment, such as live music, and other activities.

Find out what support you can get
For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or need to take care of your mental health.
www.uk.com/covid19

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:
A high temperature - A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.
Get a test and stay at home.

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Stevenage BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community and Housing

- VPAC transition arrangements in place to offer local support to CEV's via Herts Help for a further period following lockdown.
- SADA service is being launched as a pilot in Hertsmere to meet increasing demands.
- The following community and leisure facilities have re-opened:
 - Museum
 - Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre
 - Stevenage Swimming Centre
 - Stevenage Golf & Conference Centre (Catering and Conference offer remains closed)
 - Fairlands Valley Park – Café
- 165 households currently in Emergency, Temporary and B&B accommodation
- Rent Arrears = £1.85M
- Covid Outbreak (4 cases) at one scheme

Business Support

Response to closure of Debenhams:

- Comms support highlighting support available from ourselves & partners
- Stevenage Economy Taskforce meeting acceleration to focus on co-ordination of support and create employment opportunities
- Aiming to support webinar to support those facing redundancy with CAB, DWP +
- Liaison with Herts CC to support vaccination programme and opportunities
- Regular Business Update sent info on new markets, EU Transition & business requirements in Tier2
- Small Business Saturday campaign to promote small independent businesses – incl. Press release sent

Business Grants Update

Live Schemes:

- **LRSB (Closed) addendum** - this scheme was for the period 5 November up to 2 December for businesses with business rates forced to close
- **ARG** – the discretionary scheme is open for grants up to 31 March 2022. Businesses have a month to apply and it covers certain types of businesses without rateable premises as well as those without

We are still waiting Government guidance for:

- **LRSB (Closed)** - for liable rate payers who are mandated to close for the period from 2.12.20, for each 14 day period that Stevenage is in tier 2 (the tier could change as advised by the government which would change the funding available)
- **LRSB (OPEN)** - for businesses impacted by the tier system but not closed - discretionary for the period from 2.12.20, and for each period that we are in a relevant tier (2 or 3).-
- **LRSB (SECTOR)** - for businesses mandated to stay closed since March (Nightclubs)
- **Pubs (wet)** - compensation for public houses that are forced to shut

SBC Business Continuity and Workforce

- Focus on protecting vital frontline services
- Continued pressures on particular services in housing, repairs, So Safe, Environmental Health and a range of front line services
- Additional capacity in place to support contact tracing this week and for future support for Stevenage Helps
- Identified SBC colleagues who can support the vital vaccination efforts
- Preparing for Staff Awards (8th December) to highlight the outstanding efforts across a number of teams



CELEBRATING
OUR PEOPLE
★★★ awards 2020 ★★★

Communications update

- #StaySafeStevenage Campaign ongoing - digital/online/print
- Tier 2, Self-isolation and safety messages shared on social media
- Reopening of the High Street and Town Centre campaign with media partners
- Digital screens/boards: In progress following Director of Public Health support and approval
- Frequently Asked Questions updated and shared on the council's website



The graphic is a vertical poster from the NHS. At the top, it features the HM Government logo and the NHS logo. Below this, it reads 'TIER 2 HIGH ALERT' in large, bold, black letters, with 'FROM 2 DEC' in smaller text to the right. The main title 'Tier 2: High alert' is written in white on an orange background. To the right of this title is a white warning triangle with a black exclamation mark. Below the title, there are five bullet points, each preceded by a small orange square: 'Pubs open only if serving food', 'Gyms open and all outdoor sport allowed', 'No household mixing but Rule of Six allowed outdoors', 'Schools open', and 'Large events allowed for maximum 2,000 people (or 1,000 inside)'. The entire graphic is set against a white background with orange accents.

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TIER 2
HIGH ALERT FROM 2 DEC

Tier 2: High alert

- **Pubs open** only if serving food
- **Gyms open** and all outdoor sport allowed
- **No household mixing** but Rule of Six allowed outdoors
- **Schools open**
- **Large events allowed** for maximum 2,000 people (or 1,000 inside)