

Coronavirus restrictions on businesses Update from Lancaster City Council

Advice and guidance to businesses January 2021

The purpose for this document is to provide a summary of restrictions to businesses during the current National Lockdown.

This guidance is based on the information and guidance received from government and published on the Gov.uk website ([National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)).

This is a summary of the guidance to businesses relevant to all businesses but as with previous Tier restrictions and Lockdown, there will be further discussions and interpretation of the regulations required from time to time to determine individual trading circumstances that may not have been addressed specifically in the regulations.

It is clear from the National reporting of Covid cases, the situation is extreme, and we must all continue to follow the guidance and advice closely to help reduce the transmission of the virus.

Everyone must endeavour to follow the regulations and guidance, which includes following the spirit of the regulations if there is lack of specific clarity covering individual circumstances.

Businesses and venues which must close

Retail shops

- Non-essential retail shops must not open to customers. This includes shops such as clothing and homeware stores, vehicle showrooms (other than for rental), betting shops, florists, tailors, tobacco and vape shops, electronic goods and mobile phone shops, auction houses except for auctions of livestock or agricultural equipment, and market stalls selling non-essential goods.

Non-essential retail shops can continue to operate with **click-and-collect** (where goods are pre-ordered and collected without customers entering the premises) and **delivery services**.

Note – Businesses must not take orders at the shop door or encourage customers to visit the premises without first placing an order by phone/Text, post or by internet.

Goods should not be displayed outside shops as this will encourage customers to visit before they have placed an order. No browsing of any goods is permitted.

Hospitality sector

- Hospitality venues such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs must close; with the exception of providing food and non-alcoholic drinks for takeaway (until 11pm), which must be ordered via click-and-collect or drive-through. All food and drink (including alcohol) can continue to be provided by delivery.
- accommodation such as hotels, hostels, guest houses and campsites must remain closed, except for specific circumstances, such as where these act as someone's main residence, where the person cannot return home, for providing accommodation or support to the homeless, or where it is essential to stay there for work purposes. (Restaurants and bars within guest accommodation must remain closed although food and/or drink including alcohol can be provided through room service as long as it is ordered by phone or online.)

Leisure and entertainment sector

- leisure and sports facilities such as leisure centres and gyms, swimming pools, sports courts, fitness and dance studios, riding centres, climbing walls, and golf courses.
- entertainment venues such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, museums and galleries, casinos, amusement arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, skating rinks, go-karting venues, indoor play and soft play centres and areas (including inflatable parks and trampolining centres), circuses, fairgrounds, funfairs, water parks and theme parks

Zoos and “attractions”

- animal attractions (such as zoos, safari parks, aquariums, and wildlife centres)
- indoor attractions at venues such as botanical gardens, heritage homes and landmarks must also close, though outdoor grounds of these premises can stay open for outdoor exercise.

Close contact personal care services (e.g. hairdressers etc)

- personal care facilities such as hair, beauty, tanning and nail salons. Tattoo parlours, spas, massage parlours, body and skin piercing services must also close.

Note - These services should not be provided as a mobile service visiting other people’s homes

Community buildings

- community centres and halls must close except for a limited number of exempt activities, as set out below. Libraries can remain open to provide access to IT and digital services – for example for people who do not have it at home – and for click-and-collect services.

Some of the business/venues which are required to close e.g. community centres will be permitted to be open for a small number of exempt activities such as:-

- education and training – for schools to use sports, leisure and community facilities where that is part of their normal provision

- childcare purposes and supervised activities for those children eligible to attend
- hosting blood donation sessions and food banks
- to provide medical treatment
- for elite sports persons to train and compete (in indoor and outdoor sports facilities), and professional dancers and choreographers to work (in fitness and dance studios)
- for training and rehearsal without an audience (in theatres and concert halls)
- for the purposes of film and TV filming

A full list of exemptions can be found in the [guidance on closing certain businesses and venues in England](#).

Businesses and venues which can remain open

Businesses providing essential goods and services can stay open. The full list of these businesses can be found in the [guidance on closing certain businesses and venues in England](#), but includes:

- essential retail such as food shops, supermarkets, pharmacies, garden centres, building merchants and suppliers of building products and off-licences

- market stalls selling essential retail may also stay open
- businesses providing repair services may also stay open, where they primarily offer repair services
- petrol stations, automatic (but not manual) car washes, vehicle repair garages and MOT services, bicycle shops, and taxi and vehicle hire businesses
- banks, building societies, post offices, short-term loan providers and money transfer businesses
- funeral directors
- laundrettes and dry cleaners
- medical and dental services
- vets and retailers of products and food for the upkeep and welfare of animals
- animal rescue centres, boarding facilities and animal groomers (may continue to be used for animal welfare, rather than aesthetic purposes)
- agricultural supplies shops
- mobility and disability support shops
- storage and distribution facilities

- car parks, public toilets and motorway service areas
- outdoor playgrounds
- outdoor parts of botanical gardens and heritage sites for exercise
- places of worship
- crematoriums and burial grounds

Travel

Please remember that you must not leave your home unless you have a reasonable excuse (for example, for work or education purposes). If you need to travel you should stay local – meaning avoiding travelling outside of your village, town or the part of a city where you live – and look to reduce the number of journeys you make overall.

The list of reasons you can leave your home and area include, but are not limited to:

- work, where you cannot reasonably work from home
- accessing education and for caring responsibilities
- visiting those in your support bubble – or your childcare bubble for childcare
- visiting hospital, GP and other medical appointments or visits where you have had an accident or are concerned about your health
- buying goods or services that you need, but this should be within your local area wherever possible
- outdoor exercise. This should be done locally wherever possible, but you can travel a short distance within your area to do so if necessary (for example, to access an open space)
- attending the care and exercise of an animal, or veterinary services

If you need to travel, walk or cycle where possible, and plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. This will allow you to practise social distancing while you travel.

Please note that all guidance is subject to regular review and the above guidance is correct at the time of writing (11 January). More restrictions may be introduced as lockdown progresses and we encourage you to regularly check the below sites for the most up to date information.

Further advice and information can be found here :-

[National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-lockdown-stay-at-home)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-and-support)

[Coronavirus information - Lancaster City Council](#)

Or if you require further specific advice and guidance please e-mail Environmental Health Admin using this e-mail address: -

environmentalhealth@lancaster.gov.uk