

Annex A: National policy developments timeline

Since the last update to Executive Board, the government has taken a number of measures to respond to changing rates of infection across the country. This timeline does not detail every national development, but covers some of the most significant. Full details of guidance and communications issued by the government can be found on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

| Date | Policy announcement |
|---------------------|---|
| 21 September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New £500 Isolation Support Payment announced for people on low incomes, meeting certain criteria, who can't work because they've tested positive or are asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. • The UK Chief Medical Officers and Joint Biosecurity Centre recommended that the UK Covid-19 alert level moves from level 3 (COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation) to level 4 (COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation, transmission is high or rising exponentially). |
| 22 September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exemption to restrictions on household mixing introduced for areas of intervention, to allow for informal care of vulnerable adults and children under 14 as part of a consistent 'care bubble'. • Prime Minister announced new national measures in response to increasing rates of Covid-19. People encouraged to work from home if possible. Indoor adult sport no longer exempt from Rule of Six. The planned reopening of conferences, exhibition halls and large sporting events from 1 October is suspended. |
| 23 September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wearing of face coverings becomes mandatory for taxi and private hire customers; within hospitality venues except when seated; and for retail staff, with fixed penalties for breaches. |
| 24 September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Covid-19 app launched across England and Wales. • Hospitality venues legally required to display the NHS QR code, ensure that no individual group larger than 6 enters the premises, and close at 10pm, and licensed premises can only offer table service, plus takeaway, which can continue beyond 10pm. Fines of £1000 for businesses that fail in these duties. • The Chancellor unveils the Winter Economy Plan, including a Job Support Scheme to replace the furlough scheme from 1 November, and an extension to the Self Employed Income Support Scheme. The new Jobs Support Scheme will start on the 1st November, replacing the Furlough Scheme, to cover nearly a quarter of workers' pay in 'viable' jobs for the next six months. A new 'Pay as you Grow' loan scheme will allow lenders to extend the length of Bounce Back Loans and Coronavirus Business Interruption Scheme Loans from 6 years to 10. These two schemes, and the Future Fund, have been extended until the end of November. The Self-Employment Grant Support Scheme will also be extended with an initial taxable grant provided to those currently eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and who are continuing to actively trade but face reduced demand. • Denmark, Slovakia, Iceland and Curaçao removed from travel corridor exempt list-people arriving in the UK from these destinations from 4am Saturday 26 September 2020 required to self-isolate for 2 weeks. |
| 25 September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions on mixing with other households in private homes and gardens introduced in Leeds, excluding support bubbles. |
| 28 September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new legal duty to self-isolate came into force for people who test positive for Covid-19 or come into contact with someone who has tested positive. Those who break the rules could be fined £1000, increasing to £10,000 for repeat offences. • Maximum number of people who can attend a wedding ceremony or reception reduced from 30 to 15. |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 30 September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In parts of the North East it becomes illegal to mix with other households (excluding support bubbles) in any indoor setting. This is in addition to previously announced restrictions on household mixing in private homes and gardens. |
| 1 October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In parts of the North West, it becomes illegal to mix with other households (excluding support bubbles) in any indoor setting. This is in addition to previously announced restrictions on household mixing in private homes and gardens. It is also recommend that people in these areas do not meet with anyone outside their household or bubble in outdoor public spaces, such as parks and outdoor hospitality. • Turkey, Poland, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba removed from the travel corridor exempt list -people arriving in England from these destinations from 4am Saturday 3 October will need to self-isolate for 2 weeks. |
| 4 October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A technical issue in the national reporting mechanism, which has since been resolved, resulted in cases between 25 September and 2 October not being included in the reported daily Covid-19 figures, with an impact of around 2000 cases in Leeds. |
| 9 October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government's Job Support Scheme (JSS) will be expanded to protect jobs and support businesses required to close their doors as a result of coronavirus restrictions, the Chancellor announced. The Government will pay two thirds of employees' salaries to protect jobs over the coming month. |
| 12 October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three-tiered system for England announced. Simplified rules of Medium, High and Very High for all places across England. Liverpool City Region entered third tier while parts of the North East and Yorkshire entered tier 2. • The Medical Director of NHS England announced that Nightingale hospitals in Harrogate, Sunderland and Manchester are to increase their state of readiness. If made active, decisions can be made locally as to whether the sites are used for Covid-19 treatment or maintaining elective and diagnostic work. |
| 13 October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government announced £10 million Cold Weather Payment for councils to help to keep rough sleepers safe this winter. Additional £2 million will go to faith and community groups to help them support rough sleepers into accommodation. |