

Thursday, November 26

**Move into Tier 3 COVID-19 restrictions from December 2**

Rushcliffe and Nottinghamshire will enter Tier 3 for restrictions from Wednesday 2 December.

The move is part of the Government’s Winter Plan to reduce the spread of the virus following the end of the four-week national lockdown.

For any questions please email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk and details will continue to be updated at [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk)

Please see the attached image. Tier 3 means:

* No mixing of households indoors or outdoors apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public places, for example parks and public gardens
* Hospitality will close except for sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery
* Retail, entertainment and personal care businesses can all open
* Places of worship are open but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble
* Avoid travelling out of the area, other than where necessary for work, education, youth services, medical attention or because of caring responsibilities
* No overnight stays outside of local area, unless necessary for work, education or similar reasons
* 15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted
* Exercise classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but should avoid contact. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue
* Public buildings and community venues can only open for supervised activities. A further update to clarify this will be outlined as soon as possible.

The new Tiers have been strengthened to reduce the infection rate as part of a strategy to save lives, protect health and care services, and keep our economy and schools open.

As well as the new Tiers, the Government has also announced specific ‘Christmas bubbles’ that will allow people from three households to mix in homes between 23-27 December, to enable them to celebrate Christmas together.

Nottinghamshire councils have pledged to work together to help communities to adapt to the new restrictions. The Government will review this every 14 days.

Director of Public Health Nottinghamshire Jonathan Gribbin said “People across Nottinghamshire have achieved a reduction in rates over recent weeks and I welcome the move out of lockdown, and a set of arrangements from December 2 which are clear and consistent.

“We will support our communities and businesses to adapt to the new rules.

“The Government has also announced an easement of the rules for a few days covering the Christmas holiday period to enable family members or friends to meet up.

“As in the rest of the UK people in Nottinghamshire are urged to exercise caution and to take care to work within the guidance about how to do this safely. In this way, we can maintain our momentum in lowering infection rates.

“The regulations are here to protect us all and are designed to keep the rates low; and the lower the number of cases get the more likely we are to move down through the tiers and start to feel like things can return to normal again.

“It is important that we all follow the new rules and work together to slow the spread of the virus in our communities. People in Nottingham have worked hard to reduce rates of Covid-19 and we have seen cases in the city fall below the national average.

“There is good news about the rollout of vaccines but it’s going to be a while before whole populations are protected from the virus. In the meantime, our local health and care services continue to experience severe pressures.

“I would urge people to continue to follow the best practice around ‘Hands, Face, Space’ and reduce contact with people from other households as much as possible. In particular, anyone who has symptoms of Covid-19 – such as a fever, continuous cough or loss of taste or smell – should isolate immediately and book a test by calling 119.”

Our Leader Cllr Simon Robinson said: “These new restrictions again call on all residents to play their part to do all they can to stop the transmission of the virus, with cases and deaths at the existing levels, it is vital you continue to follow these rules.

“We know this tiered system is still so tough for so many but it is designed to protect us all.

“Business grants continue to be distributed to hundreds of eligible businesses across the Borough and more on support for owners can be found at [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk)

“Please continue to stay safe and follow the rules so we can all look forward to a brighter 2021.”

The current legislation for the tiering approach is due to end in March 2021.

**Over £1.7m COVID-19 business support grants distributed to businesses**

We have now distributed over £1.7m of further vital central government grants to nearly 500 eligible businesses in the Borough who were affected when they entered former tier and current national lockdown restrictions.

Tomorrow (Friday) is the last chance for businesses to apply for this discretionary Local Business Support Grant Scheme at [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus)

However there is expected to be further new Tier 3 mandatory business grant support to those still affected by closures under the new restrictions after December 2 announced by central government today.

Continue to visit the webpage for more updates.

All grants continue to be processed as quickly as possible with business owners asked to ensure all supporting documents are included with any application.

Nottinghamshire Councils worked together earlier this month to create a consistent scheme across the County seeking to support those in the non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors and those who directly supply them.

Our Deputy Leader Cllr Andy Edyvean said: “Our teams are responding quickly to distribute this vital support to eligible businesses as we assist central government in managing the impacts of COVID-19.

“We know so many businesses everywhere are facing incredible pressures and with Tier 3 restrictions announced today in Rushcliffe we’ll continue to act rapidly as soon as further new Tier 3 grants become available to those affected, such as in the hospitality industry.”

**Interactive dashboard for COVID-19 cases in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**

A new, [interactive dashboard providing data on COVID-19 cases in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMWViOGNkYjUtYTExMi00NzBlLTk4MmEtYzRjYmFhMTY5NjUwIiwidCI6IjZlNWEzN2JiLWE5NjEtNGU0Zi1iYWFlLTI3OThhMjI0NWYzMCIsImMiOjh9) is now available for residents to access online.

The Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Daily COVID-19 Report summarises the information from the surveillance system which is used to monitor cases across the area.

This will remain a reliable resource for anyone seeking data on the latest COVID-19 cases across the city and county, with the dashboard set to be updated by 12pm each day.

A link to the online resource is also available [on the Coronavirus pages of our website](https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/environmentandwaste/emergencyplanning/coronavirus/#d.en.52852).

**Early December Pay Date**

Due to December payday being on the December 18, the cut-off date for Finance to receive any mileage and expense claims online is Sunday, December 6.

This is to enable the team to process and submit all claims in time for the pay run. Any claims received or authorised after this date will be paid at the next pay window in January.

A copy of the Travel Expenses Form is available via the Extranet, by clicking ‘Democratic Services’, then ‘Useful Forms’.

**Masterplan required before considering Gamston housing applications**

We are requiring developers considering planning applications for 4,000 homes and employment on land at Gamston to agree a Masterplan for the whole site, to make sure that the right infrastructure needed to support the development is provided.

In 2014, as part of our Local Plan, we allocated land to the East of Gamston and North of Tollerton for the new homes, employment space and necessary infrastructure, including new schools, and other community facilities.

In the six years since the site was allocated for development, no detailed plans have been submitted by any of the site’s landowners, meaning no new homes have been built.

Until building starts, this site won’t help us reach our target for new housing and may increase pressure for housing elsewhere in the Borough.

It is therefore essential that a Masterplan is agreed to help speed up the development of this site and reduce the need for development in other locations.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing, Cllr. Roger Upton said: “We are keen to see detailed proposals for the site come forward in order for new homes to finally be built on this site, but it is critical that it is developed in accordance with an agreed comprehensive and co-ordinated Masterplan.

“This is to ensure that all new development is supported by the right infrastructure, including new roads, community facilities and schools as soon as they are needed.

“We are concerned that if proposals for different parts of the site come forward separately and at different times this might not happen.

“More detailed planning guidance, including a site-wide Masterplan should be put in place for the site’s development and we will endeavour to make this happen.

“This will set out what development we expect to see on the different parts of the site and what supporting infrastructure is required, where and when.

“All proposals to develop the whole or parts of this site will be expected to comply with this guidance and Masterplan before any planning permissions are granted for new housing development on the site.”

The process of preparing planning guidance and a Masterplan for the whole site will include consultation with the local community, the developers, and others on a draft of the guidance and Masterplan. It is expected that this will happen during the first half of 2021.

In the meantime, the developers are currently separately consulting with the local community on their latest proposals which can be commented on at <https://consultwithyou.co.uk/gamstonfields/consultation>

**Cllr Maddison**

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Jim Maddison who represented Cotgrave as a Labour Councillor on the former Bingham rural district council, then Rushcliffe Borough Council and Cotgrave Parish Council.

Jim was first elected to represent Cotgrave on the old Bingham Rural District Council and then served with us when the new council was formed in 1974.

In total he served on both councils for 12 years and on Cotgrave Parish Council for 16 years.

He campaigned to secure the land where the leisure centre is now built and the field behind running up to Spring Meadow and the allotments and it was named Maddison Park after he retired as a councillor.

He was a miner originally from the North East and previously lived on Ringleas in the town before moving onto Westway. He is survived by his two daughters Kay and Margaret and our thoughts are with his family and friends.

**Metropolitan COVID-19 update**

Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing have updated us on their response to COVID-19 and measures to keep residents in their properties safe.

They moved their Customer Contact Centre operations to home working within 48 hours of lockdown being introduced in March and their dedicated Coronavirus Support Hub has supported 600 customers to date, including 62 in the Borough, with access to food and financial support being the most common enquiries.

They have made more than 7,700 proactive calls to at-risk customers across the country to check on their wellbeing and to provide support, including 288 here in Rushcliffe.

Their Older Persons Services teams have made 9,350 calls and made 687 face-to-face visits, whilst observing social distancing. Many of these face to face contacts were to support with medication checks, delivering food, giving reassurance and explaining COVID-19 guidelines.

They have also highlighted how they have spoken with residents about money concerns, helping them access an additional £165,000 in financial support and offered deferred payment plans for customers impacted financially.

This included doubling its Tenant Welfare Fund to support residents with rent arrears, utility bills and purchasing essential items.

Their planned works renewal programme this year will see an investment over £1.5 million to deliver 68 new bathrooms, 152 new kitchens, 19 roof replacements, 95 new windows and 90 new doors.

This will also see £317,000 invested this year in communal heating, warden call systems and 22 new domestic boilers.

They are currently actively working with 34 Rushcliffe Borough residents to address the barriers that prevent them from living well such as with digital connectivity, social mobility, mental wellbeing and crisis preparedness with a Rushcliffe Neighbourhood Plan further developed to address residents’ concerns.

To request a copy of the full summary to their response email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk

**How to Contact Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH)**

Members can contact Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing to report new problems on behalf of local residents by telephone 24/7, 365 days a year on 0203 535 3535. For non-urgent calls please try to avoid calling in peak times between 8am to 10am and 4pm to 6pm.

For email enquiries the address to use for all routine issues is Service.Improvement@metropolitan.org.uk.  If Members want to raise a formal Members enquiry, or are contacting Metropolitan about a Members enquiry or complaint that is already open, the address to use is customercare@metropolitan.org.uk. Both of these mailboxes are monitored daily.

If the issue relates to a lack of progress on an existing complaint Ward Members may contact Chris Bull Head of Housing North at chris.bull@mtvh.co.uk however Members should only contact Chris with complex ongoing cases where they have exhausted the normal channels via the MTVH contact centre.

Please note that due to data protection requirements verification will be required when you contact MTVH by phone.

**Police switch awards to in depth TV show**

Nottinghamshire Police have switched their annual Force Awards evening to film a dedicated one hour TV feature on their work over the last 12 months.

It will be available to view on Notts TV, Freeview Channel 7 this Saturday November 28 or on Virgin Channel 159.

It shows staff being nominated, footage of incidents and much of their other community work and how they have responded to the challenges of COVID-19.

**Free online workshops available on-demand for high street businesses**

A programme of free online workshops delivered by business experts are now available on-demand to help high street businesses reopen or continue to trade securely and successfully during COVID-19.

The recorded sessions are taken from our business support programme which used funding from the European Regional Development Fund to help local businesses recover and operate safely during the pandemic.

A range of topics are available to provide advice and guidance to local businesses, including insights into shopper psychology, driving retail delivery and creating a post-lockdown marketing plan.

All these sessions and more can be accessed by emailing our Economic Development team at econdev@rushcliffe.gov.uk

The workshops are delivered by expert business consultancy firms Shamshad Walker Marketing and Grounded Places, both of which boast extensive experience in guiding and advising businesses to maximise their success.

Businesses seeking further advice on any matter can find out more [on our business pages.](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus)

**Volunteers needed to sustain vital community support**

Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service (RCVS) is stepping up its urgent appeal for more volunteers, to counter the impact of COVID-19 in Nottinghamshire.

Almost 800 vulnerable people have been supported by RCVS since the coronavirus lockdown started in March.

Services include helping with shopping or collecting prescriptions, transport for those who would otherwise be stuck at home, housekeeping, and telephone befriending to counter social isolation.

Almost 5,900 individual pieces of support have been provided in the Borough, Gedling and Broxtowe.

However, around 100 more volunteers are needed to meet ongoing demand. This is because two thirds of the 145 successfully recruited by RCVS earlier in the pandemic are no longer available.

As a result, the charity’s voluntary transport scheme is providing essential journeys only, and there’s a waiting list for the telephone befriending service.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call RCVS on 0115 969 9060 or email volunteer@rushcliffecvs.org.uk.

**All the latest information for residents is available on the** [**Coronavirus webpages**](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus) **or over the phone on 0115 981 99 11.**

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Thank you for contacting Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Please give feedback on your correspondence with us today here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9LC6CXL>

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Sign up to receive our business newsletter - <http://eepurl.com/dbczkn>

Call us on 0115 981 9911 (8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday), email customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk or visit [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk)



Rushcliffe Borough Council
Finalist, Local Authority of the Year 2019



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