

Post 2nd Lockdown : 3 Tier Local COVID-19 Alert Levels

Waheguru ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru ji ki Fateh

Sikh Assembly notes that as the second COVID-19 lockdown ends on 2nd December 2020, the British Government has decided to reintroduce a system to define the level of alert required in different postcode areas. This will offer differing levels of restrictions, responsibility is expected of individuals, businesses and families in local areas to manage any further outbreaks, rather than impact the entire country arbitrarily. The key thing to note is that communal worship will be able to restart from 2 December in all Local Restriction Tiers, meaning Gurdwaras will be functioning openly, including the facilitating of Anand Karaj ceremonies, within risk assessed and safety measured environments.

There have continued to be highly publicised instances of Gurdwara management committees' failure to maintain the previous limits on the number of people permitted to attend life event functions. Although significant, the actual number is small and by no means represents the vast majority of Sikh institutions. It is a fact that the majority of the UK Sikh community has been an example of social responsibility to the world. Offering assistance to and feeding those who have been negatively impacted and struggled to survive since the outset of the pandemic and the first government lockdown, all guided by the eternal light of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the spirit of Sarbat da Bhalla. Working with local authorities the government is ready to implement 3 local COVID alert levels.

Every area will fall into one of 3 Tiers (level of lockdown), depending on the rate of local infection and we should all make ourselves fully aware of our local level, these rules are legal and carry penalties for individuals and institutions if not implemented effectively.

You must continue to:

- **wear a face covering in those areas where this is mandated**
- **follow social distancing rules**
- **work from home where you can effectively do so**
- **when travelling, plan ahead or avoid busy times and routes; walk or cycle if you can**

You can check the [local COVID alert level of your local area](#) to see which level applies to you by typing in your postcode on the government site.

We have summarised the key point relevant to Sikh Communities in the UK in the following tables:

MEDIUM (Tier 1)
Do not meet in a group larger than 6 , indoors or outdoors
Places of worship remain open , subject to the rule of 6
Langar is permitted with risk assessed communal seating, social distancing and hygiene measures being taken
Weddings and funerals can go ahead with local restrictions on numbers of attendees
Exercise and organised sport can continue outdoors or indoors subject to the rule of 6

HIGH (Tier 2)
Do not meet anybody outside of your household or support bubble in any indoor setting
Do not meet in a group larger than 6 outside, including in a garden or other spaces like beaches or parks
Places of worship remain open and Langar is permitted with risk assessed communal seating, social distancing and hygiene measures being taken
Weddings (15) and funerals (30) can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees.
Exercise and organised sport can continue outdoors (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 try to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible

VERY HIGH (Tier 3)
Do not meet anybody you do not live with or have not formed a support bubble with, in any indoor setting or in any private garden or hospitality venue
Do not meet in a group larger than 6 outside , including in a garden or other spaces like beaches or parks, the countryside, a public garden, or a sports venue
Places of worship remain open, but household mixing is not permitted and Langar is permitted only to take away and not consume on Gurdwara premises
Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees (15). Wedding receptions are not allowed
Avoid travelling outside the very high alert level area you are in or entering a very high alert level area, other than for things like work, education or youth services, to meet caring responsibilities or if you are travelling through as part of a longer journey
Avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK if you are resident in a very high alert level area, or avoid staying overnight in a very high alert level area if you are resident elsewhere
Exercise and organised sport can continue outdoors (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)

Clearly lockdown will convert to restrictions that are in many ways difficult to balance; Sikh Assembly prays for the Sikh community and society at large to maintain their spirit of Chardi Kala, as our collective Ardas remains for all to endure the current crisis with the Guru's Beant Kirpa and Bakshish.

Community Resources Team
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