

18th October 2020

Government 3 Tier Local COVID-19 Alert Levels

Waheguru ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru ji ki Fateh

As the battle to contain COVID-19 rages, Governments across the world continue to introduce measures designed to safeguard their populations. As such the UK Government has introduced a new system to define the level of alert required in different areas. This will offer differing levels of restrictions, the ability to congregate and determine the personal responsibility expected of individuals and families in local areas to manage outbreaks, rather than impact the entire country arbitrarily.

There have been some highly publicised instances of Gurdwara management committees not maintaining the previous limits on the number of people permitted to attend life event functions. Although significant, the 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 to the world of social responsibility. Offering assistance to and feeding those who have been negatively impacted and struggled to survive since the outset of the pandemic and the government lockdown, all guided by the eternal light of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the spirit of Sarbat the Bhalla.

The new rules applied through local authorities, now have 3 local COVID alert levels. Every area in the UK will fall into one of 3 Tiers (level of lockdown), depending on the rate of local infection:

Medium (Tier 1)

This is for areas where national restrictions continue to be in place.

High (Tier 2)

This is for areas with a higher level of infections where some additional restrictions are in place on top of restrictions in alert level medium.

Very High (Tier 3)

This is for areas with a very high level of infections and where tighter restrictions are in place. The restrictions placed on areas with a very high level of infections can vary and are based on discussions between central and local government. You should therefore [check the specific rules in your area](#).

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.

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

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
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
Schools and Universities remain open
Restaurants and pubs to close at 10pm

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
Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees
Schools and Universities remain open
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
Restaurants and pubs to close at 10pm

VERY HIGH (Tier 3)
Do not meet anybody you do not live with or have 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
Schools and universities remain open
Places of worship remain open, but household mixing is not permitted
Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees. 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)
Restaurants serving food can remain open (pubs and bars must close)

Currently higher levels of COVID-19 infection is prevalent in Central Scotland and is therefore subject to tougher restrictions until 25th October 2020.

From 6pm on Friday 16th October 2020, people from areas of the UK that have high infection rates of COVID-19 will be prevented from travelling to Wales.

We recommend that you should [check whether additional restrictions apply in your area](#).

Once again we appear to be heading towards difficult times ahead; SA wish the Sikh community of the UK to maintain their spirit of Chardi Kala, as our collective Ardaas remains for all to endure the current crisis with the Guru's Beant Kirpa and Bakshish.

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Sikh Assembly