

# Important Information for Tenants



Issue 9 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Throughout the Coronavirus Crisis, Gatesbiel will periodically issue these information sheets (in addition to information included in the regular monthly Bulletin) to bring you the latest advice from the Government and other authoritative sources such as the World Health Organization.

**The Government announced on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December that from Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December, much stricter restrictions will apply in Cumbria. This sheet summarises how they will apply to Tenants at Gatesbiel.**

## Summary of the announcement by HM Government

Faced with a new variant of the Coronavirus which transmits more easily between people and the likelihood that the NHS could be overwhelmed with patients, the government has decided that much tougher restrictions will need to be in place from Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December in many parts of England including Cumbria and Lancashire. This means that from Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December, all non-essential shops and leisure facilities will close and cafes, pubs, restaurants will only be able to offer takeaway meals. The official advice is to remain at home except for the following reasons:

- for childcare or education
- for work purposes, where your place of work remains open and where you cannot work from home (including if your job involves working in other people's homes)
- to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place - with the people you live with, with your support bubble or, when on your own, with one person from another household.
- for any medical concerns, reasons, appointments and emergencies, or to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm - such as domestic abuse
- shopping for basic necessities, e.g. food and medicine that should be as infrequent as possible
- to visit members of your support bubble or provide care for vulnerable people

This list is not exhaustive and there are other limited circumstances where you may be permitted to leave or be outside of your home. This is set out in detail in the rest of this document.

*This is similar to the 'national lockdown' in March and April 2020, except that you may take exercise outside locally without limit and this may be with one person from another household.*

## What does this mean for Gatesbiel?

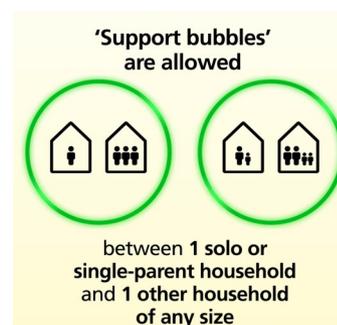
At Gatesbiel, this means that:

- regretfully, except for Meeting for Worship, the Common Room and other communal facilities except the laundry will have to close.
- you must not enter any other tenant's flat (unless you have formed a Support Bubble with them)
- you may take exercise in the gardens (or other outdoor public spaces) alone, with someone with whom you share your flat, with another member/s of your Support Bubble, or, if on your own, with one other person you do not live with (but in this case maintaining social distancing).

Tenant Support will continue to be provided. Care Agency staff and anyone providing care for you may still enter your flat as may someone carrying out an essential repair (e.g. to repair the central heating).

We understand that this will be a difficult time for all our Tenants. Do get in touch with our staff if you have questions or need help (e.g. with shopping). Staff will remain on duty as normal throughout this period and as always are here to help you.

If you have not done so already, you might want to consider forming a 'Support Bubble'. Ask a member of staff if you want more information on this.



## The 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable'

Anyone classed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' (e.g. those received a letter from the NHS advising them to shield during the first 'lockdown') are now, once again, advised to shield.

## Detailed Official Advice from HM Government

This is the detailed advice issued by the Government on Thursday 31st December. It is abridged to exclude areas that are unlikely to apply to Gatesfield Tenants. If you would like the full, unabridged copy, please ask a member of staff.

***In Tier 4 you must not leave or be outside of your home/garden unless you have a 'reasonable excuse', such as:***

### *Work and volunteering*

You can leave home for work purposes, where your place of work remains open and where you cannot work from home, including if your job involves working in other people's homes. You can also leave home to provide voluntary or charitable services.

### *Essential activities*

You can leave home to buy things at shops or obtain services from a business which is permitted to open in your Tier 4 area, but you should stay local. For instance you can leave home to buy food or medicine, or to collect any items – including food or drink – ordered through click-and-collect or as a takeaway, to obtain or deposit money (e.g. at a bank or post office), or to access critical public services. You may also leave your home to do these things on behalf of a disabled or vulnerable person.

### *Fulfilling legal obligations*

You may also leave home to fulfil legal obligations, or to carry out activities related to buying, selling, letting or renting a residential property.

### *Education and childcare*

You can leave home for [certain formal educational and childcare activities]. Parents can still take their children to school. [...]

### *Meeting others and care*

1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and will be spreading it without realising it. You can leave home to visit people in your support bubble, or to provide informal childcare for children aged 13 and under as part of a childcare bubble, to provide care for disabled or vulnerable people, to provide emergency assistance, attend a support group (of up to 15 people), or for respite care where that care is being provided to a vulnerable person or a person with a disability, or is a short break in respect of a looked after child.

### *Exercise and recreation*

People can also exercise outdoors or visit some public outdoor places, such as parks, the countryside accessible to the public, public gardens or outdoor sports facilities. You can continue to do unlimited exercise alone, or in a public outdoor place with your household, support bubble, or with one other person if you maintain social distancing.

### *Medical reasons, harm and compassionate visits*

You can leave home for a medical reason, including to get a COVID-19 test, for medical appointments and emergencies, ... or for animal welfare reasons – such as to attend veterinary services for advice or treatment.

You can also leave home to visit someone who is dying or someone in a care home, hospice, or hospital, or to accompany them to a medical appointment. If you are planning to visit, or accompany someone to, a care home, hospice, hospital or other healthcare setting, you should check that this is permitted by the facility.

### *Communal worship and life events*

You can leave home to attend or visit:  
a place of worship for communal worship<sup>1</sup>

a funeral or event related to a death  
a burial ground or a remembrance garden  
a wedding ceremony

### ***Meeting others safely***

***In general, you must not meet socially or carry out any activities with another person.*** However, you can exercise or meet in a public outdoor place with people you live with, your support bubble (or as part of a childcare bubble), or with one other person.

You should minimise time spent outside your home. When around other people, stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household – meaning the people you live with – or your support bubble. Where this is not possible, stay 1 metre apart with extra precautions (for example, wearing a face covering). ***You must not meet socially indoors with family or friends unless they are part of your household or support bubble.***

You can exercise or visit a public outdoor place:  
by yourself; with the people you live with; with your support bubble or, when on your own, with 1 person from another household.

Children under 5, and up to 2 carers for a person with a disability who needs continuous care are not counted.

Public outdoor places include: parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, forests, public gardens, allotments, the grounds of a heritage site, outdoor sports courts and facilities, and playgrounds

You cannot meet people in a private garden, unless you live with them or have formed a support bubble with them. [For these purposes, we treat the Gatesfield Grounds as a *Public Garden*].

It is a legal requirement to wear a face covering in many indoor settings (shops or places of worship where open, or on public transport) unless you are exempt.

### ***Support and childcare bubbles***

You can form a support bubble with another household if any of the following apply to you: you are the only adult in your household (any other members of the household having been under 18 on 12 June 2020), or are an under 18 year old living without any adults; you live with someone with a disability who requires continuous care and there is no other adult living in the household; you live with a child under 1, or who was under 1 on 2 December 2020; or you live with a child under 5, or who was under 5 on 2 December 2020, who has a disability and requires continuous care.

Where possible, you should avoid changing your support bubble. You are permitted to leave your home to visit your support bubble (and to stay overnight with them). However, if you form a support bubble, it is best if this is with a household who live locally.

### ***Where and when you can meet in larger groups***

There are still circumstances in which you are allowed to meet others from outside your household or support bubble in larger groups, ***but this should not be for socialising and only for permitted purposes.*** A full list of these circumstances will be included in the regulations, and includes:

for work, or providing voluntary or charitable services.  
in a childcare bubble (for the purposes of childcare only) for registered childcare,  
for arrangements where children do not live in the same household as both their parents or guardians

...

to provide emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness, or to escape a risk of harm

to see someone who is dying

to fulfil a legal obligation, such as attending court or jury service

to provide care or assistance to someone vulnerable, or to provide respite for a carer

for a wedding or equivalent ceremony in exceptional circumstances and only for up to 6 people

for funerals – up to a maximum of 30 people. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events can continue in a group of up to 6 people

to visit someone at home who is dying, or to visit someone receiving treatment in a hospital, hospice or care home, or to accompany a family member or friend to a medical appointment

to facilitate a house move

Support groups that have to be delivered in person can continue with up to 15 participants where formally organised to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support – but they must take place at a premises other than a private home. ...

Parent and child groups can continue where they provide support to parent and/or child, and children under 5 will not be counted within the 15 person limit – meaning parents and carers can attend such groups in larger numbers. These cannot take place in private dwellings.

Where a group includes someone covered by an exception (for example, someone who is working or volunteering), they are not generally counted as part of the gatherings limit.

#### **If you break the rules**

The police can take action against you if you meet in larger groups. This includes breaking up illegal gatherings and issuing fines (fixed penalty notices).

You can be given a Fixed Penalty Notice of £200 for the first offence, doubling for further offences up to a maximum of £6,400. If you hold, or are involved in holding, an illegal gathering of over 30 people, the police can issue fines of £10,000.

#### **Travel**

##### **Travelling within a Tier 4 area**

If you live in a Tier 4 area, you must not leave your home unless you have a reasonable excuse. 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. Unless absolutely necessary. [A full list is permitted reasons to travel are available but you are basically allowed to travel where this is necessary to carry out any of the permitted activities in Tier 4]

##### **Travelling out of a Tier 4 area**

You must stay at home and not leave your Tier 4 area, other than for legally permitted reasons such as:

travel to work, education, caring responsibilities, to visit or stay overnight with people in your support bubble, or your childcare bubble for childcare purposes

attend hospital, GP and other medical appointments or visits where you are concerned about your health

to provide emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness, or to escape a risk of harm (such as domestic abuse)

All exceptions will be published in the Regulations.

##### **Travelling to a Tier 4 area from a Tier 1, 2 or 3 area**

You should not travel into a Tier 4 area from another

part of the UK, other than for reasons such as:

travel to work, education, for caring responsibilities

to visit (including staying overnight with) those in your support bubble – or your childcare bubble for childcare

to attend hospital, GP and other medical appointments or visits where you are concerned about your health

to provide emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness, or to escape a risk of harm (such as domestic abuse)

Where necessary, you can travel through a Tier 3 and Tier 4 area as a part of a longer journey.

##### **International travel to or from a Tier 4 area**

If you live in a Tier 4 area, you can only travel internationally – or within the UK – where you first have a legally permitted reason to leave home. [...]

##### **Staying away from home overnight**

You cannot leave your home or the place where you are living for overnight stays unless you have a reasonable excuse for doing so. This means that holidays in the UK and abroad are not allowed. This includes staying in a second home or caravan, if that is not your primary residence. This also includes staying with anyone who you don't live with unless they're in your support bubble.

You are allowed to stay overnight away from home if you:

are visiting your support bubble

are unable to return to your main residence

need accommodation while moving house

need accommodation to attend a funeral or related commemorative event

require accommodation for work purposes or to provide voluntary services

[...]

Guest accommodation providers such as hotels, B&Bs and caravan parks may remain open for the specific reasons set out in law.

##### **Businesses and venues**

##### **Businesses and venues which must close**

To reduce social contact, the regulations require some businesses to close and impose restrictions on how some businesses provide goods and services. The list of businesses required to close in England includes:

non-essential retail, such as clothing and homeware stores, vehicle showrooms (other than for rental), betting shops, 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 – these venues can continue to be able to operate click-and-collect (where goods are pre-ordered and collected off the premises) and delivery services

hospitality venues such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs; with the exception of providing food and drink for takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery

accommodation such as hotels, hostels, guest houses and campsites, [...]

leisure and sports facilities such as leisure centres and indoor gyms, indoor swimming pools, indoor sports courts, indoor fitness and dance studios, indoor riding centres, and indoor climbing walls

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

indoor attractions at venues such as botanical gardens,

heritage homes and landmarks must also close, though outdoor grounds of these premises can stay open personal care facilities such as hair, beauty, tanning and nail salons. Tattoo parlours, spas, massage parlours, body and skin piercing services must also close. These services should not be provided in other people's homes community centres and halls must close except for a limited number of exempt activities, as set out below. Libraries can also 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 these businesses and places will also be permitted to be open for a small number of exempt activities.***

Exemptions in England include:

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 children hosting blood donation sessions and food banks to provide medical treatment

...

for the purposes of film and TV filming

***Businesses and venues which can remain open***

Other businesses and venues are permitted to stay open, following COVID-19 secure guidelines. This includes those providing essential goods and services:

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 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 gym, pools, sports courts and facilities

golf courses

outdoor archery/driving/shooting ranges

outdoor riding centres

outdoor parts of botanical gardens, heritage sites, and zoos and other animal attractions

places of worship

crematoriums and burial grounds

**Public services**

The majority of public services will continue and you will be able to leave home to visit them. These include:

the NHS and medical services like GPs and dentists. We are supporting the NHS to carry out urgent and non-urgent services safely, and it is vital anyone who thinks

they need any kind of medical care comes forward and seeks help

Jobcentre Plus sites, courts and probation services, civil registrations offices, passport and visa services services provided to victims, waste or recycling centres

**Going to work**

To help contain the virus, everyone who can work effectively from home should do so. Where people cannot do so, they should continue to travel to their workplace. Public sector employees working in essential services, including childcare or education, should continue to go into work. Where it is necessary for you to work in other people's homes – e.g. cleaners or tradespeople – you can do so.

**Universities**

We have published guidance to universities and students on how students can return safely to higher education in the spring term.

**Schools**

The government has confirmed that secondary schools and colleges in England will be offered help to implement a free coronavirus testing from the first week of January. This will be alongside a staggered return for secondary schools, starting with exam years, vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

**Weddings, civil partnerships, religious services and funerals**

Funerals can be attended by a maximum of 30 people. Linked religious, belief-based or commemorative events, such as stone settings and ash scatterings can also continue with up to 6 people in attendance. Anyone working is not counted in these limits. Social distancing should be maintained between people who do not live together or share a support bubble.

Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies must only take place with up to 6 people. Anyone working is not included.

If you live in a Tier 4 area and are going to a wedding, funeral or linked commemorative event outside the Tier 4 area, the event must follow the Tier 4 gathering limits.

**Places of worship**

You can attend places of worship for a service. However, you must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble. You should maintain strict social distancing at all times.

**Sports and physical activity**

Indoor gyms and sports facilities will close. Outdoor sports courts, outdoor gyms, golf courses, outdoor swimming pools, archery/driving/shooting ranges, riding centres and playgrounds can remain open for individual exercise, and for people to use with others within your household, support bubble, or with one person from another household. Organised outdoor sport for under 18s and disabled people will be allowed.

**Moving home**

You can still move home. People outside your household or support bubble should not help with moving house unless absolutely necessary.

Estate and letting agents and removals firms can continue to work. If you are looking to move, you can go to property viewings.

Follow the national guidance on moving home safely, which includes advice on social distancing, letting fresh air in, and wearing a face covering.