

Coronavirus – today's figures

The latest figures detailing the number of people diagnosed with Covid-19 in the last 24 hours in Scotland have been announced.

The weekly review of restrictions in all 32 Scottish local authority areas was announced on Tuesday after a meeting of the Scottish Cabinet.

The City of Edinburgh Council area was in Level Three and along with six other local authority areas will remain at that level for another week, [causing an outcry](#) from politicians of all parties who believed the city would move to Level Two.

This would have allowed restaurants

and other hospitality outlets to stay open longer and perhaps make more money in the run up to Christmas.

The Council Leader has lodged an emergency motion at [today's Council meeting](#) but did also write to the Deputy First Minister asking for reasons behind the decision.

You can read the Deputy First Minister's response below.

The figures in Scotland as at **10 December 2020** are as follows:

- **933** new cases of Covid-19 reported which is **4.7%** of these newly tested
- **50** newly reported deaths have been announced today of people who have tested positive within the last 28 days.
- **52** people were in intensive care yesterday with recently confirmed Covid-19 which is **2 more** than yesterday
- **984** people were in hospital yesterday with recently confirmed Covid-19 which is **12 more** than yesterday
- The total number of positive cases in Scotland has risen to **103,305**
- The number of deaths under this daily measurement is now **4,039 (which is the first time the number of deaths has exceeded 4,000 under this measurement.)**

National Records of Scotland [announced](#) their weekly figures on Wednesday stating that the total number of Covid-19 related deaths to **6 December 2020** is **5,868** This figure is calculated on a wider definition of deaths relating to Covid-19 than the daily figure reported by The Scottish Government. There were 232 deaths registered last week which is 20 fewer than the previous week.

You can also see the latest numbers laid out visually on the Travelling Tabby website [here](#). It is updated at 3pm daily.

Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Foghlam agus Sgilean
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Education and Skills



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

John Swinney BPA/MSP
F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: dfmcse@gov.scot

Cllr Adam McVey
Leader of City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers
High Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1YJ

adam.mcvey@edinburgh.gov.uk

9 December 2020

COVID-19: WEEKLY REVIEW OF PROTECTION LEVELS

Dear Adam

We spoke yesterday about the Scottish Government's decision at this week's review of COVID-19 protection levels to maintain Edinburgh at Level 3. I promised to follow up in writing to explain our reasoning.

First, let me repeat, as I told you on our call, that we do not approach these decisions lightly, and that the decision about Edinburgh yesterday was extremely finely balanced. Indeed, as the First Minister told Parliament yesterday, Cabinet agonised over it, conscious both of the possible consequences and of expectations among the public.

For this week's review, we felt that it was particularly important for us to take a cautious approach given the imminence of the festive period, and the significant risk that gatherings of family and friends then could lead to a rise in the R number and increased cases of COVID-19 as a result. It is crucial for us to seek to manage this risk carefully, in order to ensure that the hard work and sacrifices of the people and businesses in Edinburgh and across Scotland over recent months are not undermined.

Suppressing the prevalence of the virus to a very low level before Christmas is key to avoiding the need for more restrictive protective measures in the New Year and ensuring that the NHS does not become overwhelmed by COVID-19 in January, which as you will know is traditionally the most challenging time for it.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire
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The risks around increased social activity are particularly acute in large cities like Edinburgh. Frequent transport links and high concentrations of hospitality and retail venues act as a magnet for large numbers of people, creating increased opportunities for transmission. This additional risk was also a factor for consideration in this week's review. A move to Level 2 in Edinburgh would mean opening up significantly more services in our second biggest city in the two weeks before Christmas. So we wanted to have as much confidence as possible that the situation is as stable as possible before we make that move.

In that context, the recent rise in cases, while relatively slight, was a cause for concern when seen against the backdrop of a much slower reduction in cases and test positivity for Edinburgh over the last two weeks than for Scotland as a whole. By the same token, while Scotland as a whole has seen declining test positivity, the test positivity for Edinburgh is rising. So, weighing the data in the wider context, we decided it was prudent to keep Edinburgh in Level 3 this week, monitor the position closely, and to review the level again next week.

And while it is extremely important not to read too much into any single set of figures, today's daily update from Public Health Scotland would seem to indicate that our caution may not have been misplaced. The total number of cases has risen for the second day in a row, and is up 14 per cent on seven days ago; while test positivity has also risen for five of the last seven days.

This was a very difficult decision to make: but we have always been clear, including in the document that we publish every week explaining our decisions, that the data on their own do not determine the decisions on levels, which ultimately have to be a matter of judgement. As we set out in the Strategic Framework published in October, "These decisions require judgement to be applied to all the facts and considerations relevant at the time they are made, and in relation to the area directly affected and for Scotland as a whole."

We fully appreciate that decisions on levels carry consequences for the communities they affect, and for Scotland as a whole; and we know that the maintenance of restrictions involves real and continued difficulties for many businesses, particularly those in the hospitality sector.

That is why, in addition to the substantial package of support already in place, which will be delivering some relief to Edinburgh businesses, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance is this afternoon £185 million in additional support to key sectors in the New Year. And in the shorter term, as the First Minister told Parliament, we will be considering whether any changes to the restrictions within the different levels - particularly as they affect hospitality - can safely be made.

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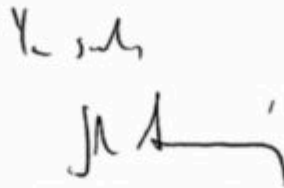
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I understand that our decision this week has disappointed you, and will have disappointed many people in Edinburgh. But I hope you will understand the basis on which it was made and the seriousness with which we take our responsibilities.



JOHN SWINNEY

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LEVEL THREE RESTRICTIONS:

[su_spoiler class="my-custom-spoiler" title="Socialising in Level Three areas"]

Meeting others indoors

You should not meet anyone who is not in your household indoors in your home or in their home. This applies to all age groups 12 and over. You can meet another household indoors in a public place such as a café or restaurant. The maximum number of people who can meet indoors in a public (not a home) place are 6 which can be from up to 2 separate households.

Children under the age of 12 from these households do not count towards the total number of people counted in a gathering.

Where an individual household includes more than 6 people, they can nevertheless meet as a single household even if the total number of people exceeds 6.

When you meet people from another household indoors you should:

minimise the number of meetings you have with people from other households each day

stay at least 2 metres apart from anyone who is not part of your household, unless in a public venue that is operating 1 metre distancing with additional measures being in place to avoid transmission.

maintain hand and cough hygiene

avoid touching hard surfaces with your hands

wash your hands when you arrive, when you leave, when you get home and especially before eating or after touching surfaces

not share food or utensils – if eating, each household should bring, prepare and eat its own food separately

if possible, keep rooms well ventilated – consider opening windows or a door

Those at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus (including those who had been shielding, people 70 and over, people who are pregnant and people with an underlying medical

condition) should strictly follow the physical distancing guidance.

Meeting others outdoors

You can meet people from other households outdoors in a private garden or in a public place such as a park or an outdoor area of a pub. The maximum number of people who can meet outdoors is 6 which can be from up to 2 separate households.

Children under the age of 12 from these households do not count towards the total number of people counted in a gathering. Children under 12 do not need to maintain physical distance from others. This is to allow children under 12 to play with their friends outside.

Young people aged between 12 and 17 can meet up in groups of up to 6 at a time outdoors and are not subject to the 2 household limit. Physical distancing is required.

Where an individual household includes more than 6 people, they can continue to meet outside as a household even if the total number of people exceeds 6.

You should:

- minimise the number of meetings you have with people from other households each day

- stay at least 2 metres away from anyone who is not part of your household

- maintain hand and cough hygiene

- avoid touching hard surfaces with your hands

- wash your hands when you arrive, when you leave, when you get home and especially before eating or after touching surfaces

- not share food or utensils – if eating, each household should bring, prepare and eat its own food separately

- if possible, keep rooms well ventilated – consider opening windows or a door

Those at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus

(including those who had been shielding, people 70 and over, people who are pregnant and people with an underlying medical condition) should strictly follow the physical distancing guidance.

Going into someone else's home

If you are meeting people from another household in their garden and the gathering exceeds 6 people, you should only go into their house to:

access the garden – do so quickly and without touching anything

use the toilet – avoid touching surfaces with your hands as much as possible, wipe any surfaces that you do touch with antibacterial wipes, wash your hands thoroughly, dry your hands with a freshly laundered towel or a paper towel, which you should dispose of in a closed bin.

If members of another household are going to visit you and might need to use your toilet, you should ensure appropriate cleaning materials are available. You should also provide either a hand towel for each visiting household or paper towels and a safe disposal option.

Extended households

People who live in different places can form an “extended household” in the following circumstances:

People who live alone

If you are an adult and you live alone, or if all others in your household are under 18, you, any children who live with you, and the members of one other household (of any size) can agree to form an ‘extended household’. This will allow people who live alone (or those living only with children under the age of 18) to be considered part of another household in order to reduce loneliness, isolation and to provide mutual social support.

Couples who do not live together

Two adults are in a relationship and they do not live together

they, and any children they each live with, can agree to form an 'extended household'.

However, if one member of a household gets coronavirus, there is a strong likelihood that other members of that household will also catch it. For this reason, there are some important rules that extended households should follow to remain as safe as possible:

a household must not form an extended household with more than one other household

households can end the arrangement at any time, but should not then form an extended household with a new household for at least a 14-day period.

All the adults living in both households should agree to form the extended household. We also encourage parents or guardians to involve their children in discussions. Forming an extended household is an important decision that should be properly discussed and agreed beforehand. Physical distancing between members of an extended household is not required

Once two households have agreed to form an extended household they may meet outdoors or indoors, visit and stay at each other's homes, and do everything that people in other households can do, such as watch TV, share a meal and look after each other's children.

Members of an extended household are considered to be one household for the legal requirements on meeting other households and going outside, and for the guidance in this document about seeing friends and family and about exercise and leisure activity.

You can continue to interact with members of your extended household even if they live in a different area with a different Level of protective measures.

If someone in the extended household develops COVID-19 symptoms, to avoid spreading the virus all members of the

extended household must isolate immediately if they met the symptomatic person at any time between 2 days before and up to 10 days after their symptoms started.

If the symptomatic person tests positive, all members of their direct household must isolate for 14 days from the start of symptoms. Similarly, other members of the extended household must isolate for 14 days from when the most recent contact took place. Isolate means staying in your own home for the full 14 days.

Those at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus (including people over 70, people who are pregnant and people with an underlying medical condition) may take part in an extended household arrangement, but should strictly follow the handwashing, surface cleaning and respiratory hygiene guidance on the NHS Inform website.

Shared parenting

Where parents do not live in the same household, children can move between their parents' homes in all levels, this includes both supervised and unsupervised visitation.

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[su_spoiler class="my-custom-spoiler" title="Hospitality in Level Three Areas"]

Restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars can open indoor and outdoors for the consumption of food and non alcoholic drinks. Alcoholic drinks cannot be served. Last entry is 17:00 and all venues must be closed and all customers off the premises by 18:00.

The maximum number of people you can meet indoors and outdoors in a restaurant, café, pub or bar is 6 which can be from up to 2 separate households.

Children under the age of 12 from these households do not

count towards the total number of people meeting outdoors only.

Where an individual household includes more than 6 people they can continue to meet as a household in hospitality premises, although the venue may impose a smaller group limit.

Table service and the wearing of face-coverings (unless exempt) when not seated by all customers is mandatory in all hospitality venues. When meeting people from more than one other household, you should think beforehand about what size of table you will need to keep physically distanced between members of your group. The venue you are visiting should be able to advise you of booking options.

You will be asked by to provide your contact details for Test and Protect purposes This information is retained for 21 days with a view to sharing with Test and Protect Teams, if required.

Hospitality venues are required to put in place additional measures to minimise transmission of COVID-19. For example hand sanitiser stations and adequate ventilation. There will also be signs to inform customers whether the venue is in a 2 metres or 1 metre social distancing area.

You should stay at least 2 metres apart from people from other households at all times, unless the venue is operating 1 metre distancing due to additional measures being in place to avoid transmission. Physical distancing and good hand hygiene remain the most effective measures in reducing the transmission of COVID-19. Therefore, distancing requirements need to be maintained, where reasonably practicable, at all times, including when waiting to enter premises and when seated.

You should avoid visiting multiple hospitality premises on the same day. In particular, do not visit more than one pub or bar on the same day, as this increases the risk of transmission.

Takeaways can still operate as normal, provided food and drink is sold for consumption off the premises. Face coverings and physical distancing rules must be followed.

Hotels and other accommodation providers can still serve food to guests staying in their premises up to 22:00. Room service, including alcohol, is allowed as normal.

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Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland

F

Face coverings



A

Avoid crowded places



C

Clean your hands regularly



T

Two metre distance



S

Self isolate and book a
test if you have symptoms



nhsinform.scot/coronavirus
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