

Coronavirus – government decision on levels being put in place from Friday

The First Minister outlined the next steps to The Scottish Parliament this afternoon and confirmed that Edinburgh will remain in Level 2 for now.

Glasgow will move to Level 2 from 00:01 on Saturday 5 June 2021, having been in Level 3 for some time.

These mainland local authority areas will remain at Level 2, while the situation with the virus is monitored closely:

- East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire
- East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, and South Ayrshire
- North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire
- Edinburgh and Midlothian
- Stirling and Clackmannanshire
- Dundee

From 00:01 on Saturday 5 June 2021, these 15 mainland local authorities will move to Level 1:

- Highland and Argyll & Bute
- Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray
- Angus and Perth & Kinross
- Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire
- Falkirk
- Fife

- West Lothian and East Lothian
- The Scottish Borders
- Dumfries & Galloway

All islands currently in Level 1 will move to Level 0 at the same time due to sustained low numbers of cases. Everyone is encouraged to get tested to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by finding cases that might be missed, as around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't have symptoms.

First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, said: "I appreciate that today's decisions will feel like a mixed bag. That reflects the fact that we are in a transition phase. No part of the country is going backwards today. Before the vaccines, that would have been impossible on case numbers like this. But the vaccines are changing the game. And that means we can still be optimistic about our chances of much more normality over the summer and beyond.

"As always, all of us have a part to play in beating this virus back. So please, stick with it, and each other."

For local authority areas in Level 2, The Scottish Government will be providing support to soft play and other closed sectors that had expected to open, or operate in a different way from 7 June. Full details will be provided by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kate Forbes, tomorrow.

Council Leaders in Edinburgh have called on residents to stick to the guidance and come forward for vaccinations and community testing following the [First Minister's announcement today](#) that the city and other parts of Scotland will stay in Level Two.

Council Leader Adam McVey said: "I know people across the city continue to do a brilliant job to follow the guidance to help steer Edinburgh forward out of lockdown and I know people understand the need to stay in Level Two due to recent increases in transmissions. With cases rising in some parts of

the city we've got to make sure we go at the right pace rather than risk stalling progress further. Even with this slight slowing down of our reopening, I'm very pleased that we're still on the right track to get back to something like normality again and can still enjoy so much of our city that has reopened already. This is thanks to the hard work of people and businesses across our communities and, of course, the ongoing vaccination rollout.

"If you're called forward for your jab, please make sure you take up the invitation, especially when it's your second dose as that's when immunity against the newly-named Delta variant increases significantly. Those aged 18 to 29 can now [register for a vaccine appointment via NHS inform](#). By each of us doing the right thing and helping to protect ourselves and our communities, we'll see Edinburgh join other local authorities in the lower levels of restrictions much faster."

Council Depute Leader Cammy Day said: "Nobody wants to go backwards after the really difficult journey we've all been on to get to this point so while things are still in a delicate situation in terms of case rates versus vaccination figures, a careful and steady approach is crucial. If we can monitor where cases are emerging – including the roughly 33% that never develop symptoms – then we'll have a much clearer idea of how well we're limiting the spread of the virus. So as well as getting vaccinated when you're called forward, it's really important to continue to take regular tests, as there's evidence you can still transmit the virus even if you've had the jab. You can [order free lateral flow tests online](#) or, if you don't have any Covid symptoms, [pop into one of our community test centres](#), which we're setting up in areas where case numbers are stubbornly high.

"Please continue to follow the guidance when you're out and about in the shops or meeting friends for something to eat or drink – businesses have worked incredibly hard to put measures in place to keep their staff and customers safe and we need to

do our bit too when visiting them.”



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