

Please see below an update following the recent announcement regarding the Tier levels and the requirements within this restriction.

Information from Central Government for a variety of business types and industries is available from their website. There are 14 guides in total and these are regularly updated with new information that must be adhered to ensure that you are doing everything possible to keep people safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. These include close contact services, office/contact centres, restaurants/pubs/bars/cafes/takeaways, construction/outdoor work, gym/leisure facilities, shops and those working in other people's homes.

The complete list can be found via the following weblink:

- [Working safely during Covid 19](#)

Having observed the guidance specific to your business type, should you require any further advice or clarification then please contact Fenland District Council by emailing: [licensing@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@fenland.gov.uk)

Please be aware that the above is guidance and this can differ from what is subsequently passed in law, and therefore for the position of what is lawful, you should refer specifically to the relevant Regulations, namely The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020 .

The legislation can be accessed via the following weblink:

- [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\)\(All Tiers\)\(England\) Regulations 2020](#)

From Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 local restrictions in the form of a tier system have been introduced by Central Government.

(insert Council name here) has been placed in tier 2 (High Alert) and key points for businesses are as follows:

- you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the 'rule of 6'
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a [COVID-Secure](#) manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs
- pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals
- hospitality businesses selling food or drink for consumption on their premises are required to:
  - provide table service only, in premises which sell alcohol
  - close between 11pm and 5am (hospitality venues in airports, ports, transport services and motorway service areas are exempt)
  - stop taking orders after 10pm, this is for both food and drink

- hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through
- early closure (11pm) applies to casinos, cinemas, theatres, museums, bowling alleys, amusement arcades, funfairs, theme parks, adventure parks and activities, and bingo halls. Cinemas, theatres and concert halls can stay open beyond 11pm in order to conclude performances that start before 10pm

A full list of tier 2 restrictions and complete information on the tier system can be found via the following weblink:

- [Local restriction tiers- what you need to know \(high-alert\)](#)

For clarity, across all tiers everyone:

- must wear a face covering in most indoor public settings, unless they have an exemption
- should follow the rules on meeting others safely
- should attend school or college as normal, unless they are self-isolating. Schools, universities, colleges and early years settings remain open in all tiers
- should walk or cycle where possible, plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes when travelling
- must follow the gathering limits at their tier except for in specific settings and circumstances.

Please see below some FAQ's they may help to clarify the new rules:

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| How long should I provide as a time slot per meal? | Whilst this is not legislated specifically, a pragmatic approach should be taken with a view to potentially maximising footfall. It is suggested that a 2-hour timed slot would be sufficient to consume a substantial meal in the pub and lounge settings, those restaurants offering multiple courses may wish to extend this by 30 minutes to an hour. Patrons who finish their meal quickly will have their consumption of alcohol limited by the time slot provision. Patrons should be informed of the time limit prior to entering the establishment, to counter any claim should they attempt to indicate they had insufficient time to consume their meal. |
| When can the patrons be given drinks?              | In order not to be found with patrons in your establishment whom are drinking and yet to order food, it is recommended that alcohol is not served until a meal is ordered. Alcohol can then be served prior to the arrival of the   |

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|   | food.   |
| Should I supply bulk orders?  | The practice of bulk ordering should be discouraged, especially toward the end of any time slot. Drinks can be provided as required during the consumption of the meal. Off licence sales could be considered where permitted with the proviso that these are supplied as the patrons leave the premise.  |
| Can I allow group / party bookings  | The tier system provides restrictions regarding the number and make up of any group. Whilst in the Tier 2 category, it is advised that indoor party bookings are only from the same household address. Where groups of six are accepted additional checks should be put in place to establish restrictions have not been broken.  |
| The restrictions say mixed households can gather outside?                               | Groups of 6 mixed patrons from different bubbles can mix in outdoor settings. Each group must be socially distanced from any other group or person in that area. Any provision of alcohol will have to be on a table service basis.   |
| I have a marquee in the beer garden does this still count as outside                    | Any non-permanent structure can still be classed as a building for the purposes of the restrictions. Buildings which are open on at least two sides could be classed as an outdoor location. The addition of heating would not alter this. Table service would still need to be used in this instance.  |
| Can I allow my patrons to play snooker/pool indoors if they are not eating or drinking? | <p>Yes – Subject to a suitable and sufficient covid-19 risk assessment being in place. No alcohol is permitted to be sold for consumption. Factors such as sanitation of table, equipment, social distancing and test and trace are required. Please refer to relevant association guidance for further information.</p> <p>In setting serving alcohol, use of these facilities is not allowed as all services must be table service which precludes use of such equipment. In settings where alcohol is not provided, use of the equipment is allowed so long as sufficient Covid-19 secure measures have already been implemented by a premise when it was previously open. Factors such as sanitation of table, equipment, social distancing and test and trace are required. Please refer to relevant association guidance for further information.</p> |
| What is classed as a substantial meal?  | Although no legal definition in this instance, it would be a meal expected to   |

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|  | be served as the main midday or main evening meal, or as a main course at either such meal. This shall be plated, and a single meal not shared between two persons. For example, a sausage roll or sandwich on its own would not be considered substantial, but if served with vegetables, salad, chips/potatoes it could be considered substantial.   |
| Is Bingo still allowed to be played?   | Yes – Subject to a suitable and sufficient covid-19 risk assessment being in place. No alcohol is permitted to be sold for consumption.  |
| We have a ticket only event for a live singer, is this permitted to still go ahead?  | Any indoor live entertainment must be socially distanced and must comply with restrictions as to mixing of household groups and the rule of 6. Should provision of alcohol be required, it is a prerequisite that the entry fee includes a substantial meal and that there is a period set aside within the entertainments program for the consumption of this meal. Social distancing should be increased between the singer and audience due to aerosol dispersal and no audience singing should be permitted due to the risk posed by this activity exceeding the social distance boundaries. Evidence of a covid risk assessment for the venue must be available which takes into consideration aerosol dispersal distances and covid secure measures. |
| If someone orders a meal, how long may they stay, and I continue to serve them with an alcoholic drink?  | A pragmatic approach is encouraged based on the setting where service is taking place. For example, drinks are often ordered and served before food is ordered. However, it may be prudent to advise that in a pub setting, premises should only accept a drinks order alongside a food order to prevent people ordering drinks but subsequently not ordering a meal. A drink ordered alongside food may typically be served in advance of it. The end of the meal is likely to be an appropriate time to stop taking orders of alcohol, although one further drink could be considered.<br>The guiding principle in this must be the intention of the regulations, which is that alcoholic drinks should be seen as secondary to the meal.                |
| Can drinks be served following the completion of a meal?   | Again, being pragmatic, a sensible time scale could be offered for the turnaround of each table.   |
| In addition to bubble groups, are premises permitted to take bookings for 'business' meetings using the exemption to 'Rule of 6' therefore allowing gatherings of more than 6 for work purposes? | Whilst the Regulations permit more than 6 persons to gather for work purposes, it must be "reasonably necessary" for this gathering to take place. Each case would be considered on its own merits, but as a general rule, the Council would not consider business meetings to fall within the scope of  |

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|  | what the Government intended this exemption for, and enforcement action may be considered. |
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Fenland District Council understands the uncertainties that a number of businesses are facing at this difficult time and is able to provide assistance on what support may be available. To view this information, which includes details specific to Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSB) and Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) please visit the Council's website at <https://www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinessadvice>