

COVID-19: Tier 2 Planning and COVID Compliance Training for Licensed Premises

Question and Answer session

What are the current rates in Wolverhampton?

As of 10th December 2020, the current rate in Wolverhampton is 240 per 100,000 – this equates to around 90 cases per day.

What is the Tier 2 threshold?

There are a range of factors that contribute to Tier placements such as

- case detection rates in all age groups
- case detection rates in the over-60s
- the rate at which cases are rising or falling
- positivity rate (the number of positive cases detected as a percentage of tests taken)
- pressure on the NHS, including current and projected occupancy

More can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/full-list-of-local-restriction-tiers-by-area>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

What financial support is there for wet sale pubs who can't serve food?

[Wolves in Business](#) contains all our information on what grant support is available.

Can a separate mobile vehicle sell food on pub land and then the food be consumed inside the premises?

Yes, Businesses that do not ordinarily serve food may enter into a contracting arrangement with another business such as an outside caterer to provide table meals for customers. It is advised that there should be an agreement in place regarding this. Orders for both the food and alcoholic drinks should be made through the pub (table service), so the customer shouldn't be ordering directly with the food vendor. The food should also be served by the pub, and not directly from the food vendor. Allowing customers to bring food into the premises in order to consume alcohol is not allowed.

Can I do ticket events where customers can have a meal and stay for the duration to watch a live entertainment?

Yes. Pubs and bars that wish to remain open during Tier 2 restrictions must operate like a restaurant. Therefore the requirements around serving a table meal with alcohol still apply; it is the premises that is relevant, not the activity, so events held at these premises will need to serve a table meal with alcohol.

The current regulations are designed to avoid people staying inside venues after a substantial/table meal has been finished. Whilst there are no definitions stating how long after a meal you can stay, guidance suggests that this should be reasonable/proportionate to the table meal.

Do hospitality rules apply to Social Clubs?

Yes, they are included as hospitality venues therefore, the same rules apply as for pubs, bars and restaurants.

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Can we still do live entertainment and would our COVID capacity be reduced?

Live entertainment can run alongside the dining experience however, capacity would be reduced. Pubs and bars that wish to remain open during Tier 2 restrictions must operate like a restaurant and therefore alcohol can only be provided with a table meal. Also, only those from the same household/support bubble can meet indoors with social distancing controls in place for the tables etc.

If it is a large event, capacity would be limited to 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower). Alcohol could only be provided with a table meal – see previous answers above

How likely are we to move into a Tier 2 this month?

Unfortunately, we are not given any indication of our Tier placement prior to any government announcement.

Is there a charge to notify Environmental Health that I wish to start catering or serving food?

No there is no charge to notify the team. You will already be registered with Environmental Health if you offer wet sales. All you need to do is notify us and an Environmental Health Officer will get back in contact with you to provide food standards and hygiene guidance on how to operate safely. You can use our [Trade with Confidence](#) webpage for further information.

What do I do if 7 people book a meal, and they say that they are from the same household? Do I refuse entry?

If they are from the same household/support bubble, and you have undertaken the reasonable checks mentioned in the webinar to check that they are from the same household/support bubble, then they can sit together indoors. If they are from different households, they cannot be seated indoors; the rule of 6 applies and only a maximum of 6 can be seated together outdoors – if you cannot facilitate them outside then you must refuse entry. You must also take reasonable steps to prevent different groups mingling both indoors and outdoors.

If we are placed in Tier 2, can we accommodate Christmas bubbles during the 23rd to 27th December?

Christmas bubbles will be able to spend time together in private homes, including second homes and caravans, to attend places of worship, or meet in a public outdoor place. They will not be able to spend time together in hospitality venues.

Between 23 and 27 December, the rules on who you can meet in bars, pubs and restaurants will not change.

Do we still need to pay our annual fees? Can we pay in instalments?

Yes, annual fees must still be paid as stated in the Licensing Act 2003. We are urging those struggling to pay these fees to speak to us.

Can our licence still be suspended for non-payment of fees?

Yes, the licence can be suspended. The Licensing Act 2003 requires us to suspend the premises if the annual fee is not paid. There is a 21-day grace period and we will always contact premises beforehand. We are urging those struggling to pay these fees to get in contact with us.