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| **Greater Manchester COVID Alert Moves to Tier 3**From Friday 23 October 2020 at 00.01am, Greater Manchester will fall within Tier 3 - Very High Alert. The full details of the restrictions are available here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-very-high-greater-manchester>Alongside these measures, rules around the wearing of face coverings are still in effect. You should continue to follow social distancing rules and regularly wash your hands.  * [Read the full list of restrictions on GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know)
* [Check what restrictions apply in your area on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions)
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| The [Job Support Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/job-support-scheme) is designed to protect viable jobs in businesses that are facing lower demand over the winter months due to COVID-19, to help keep their employees attached to the workforce. The scheme will open on 1 November 2020 and run for 6 months.Further information on any additional support put in place will be shared once this becomes available. [The Local Restrictions Support Grant](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-coronavirus-local-restrictions-support-grant) will come into effect to support businesses that will be required to close due to temporary COVID-19 local lockdown restrictions imposed by the government. The grant supports businesses that were open as usual, providing services in person to customers from their business premises, but are then required to close for at least 3 weeks due to local lockdown restrictions imposed by government. It is for businesses that pay business rates on their premises.   **The Council is awaiting further guidance from Central Government regarding the financial support available to local businesses**, as soon as this has been received the website <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/coronavirus/businessratesrecovery>  will be updated. If you would like to check what support you may be entitled to please use this website <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support> Tameside Council’s Economy, Employment & Skills team are working with the business community to ensure they are supported with information, advice and services, you can access this information here: <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/coronavirus/supportforbusiness> . If you have any further questions or concerns please contact the team directly employmentandskills@tameside.gov.uk and we will be in touch as soon as possible.If you would like to sign up to receive an email notification about business support, including support available nationally, regionally and locally, [please use this link to join the Live Work Invest mailing list](https://mailchi.mp/tameside/in36zpdp6w)  Along with the support and grant schemes above employees or anyone affected by redundancy can also check their eligibility for [Universal Credit](https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit). |

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| From **Friday 23rd October 2020**, pubs and bars must close unless they operate as a restaurant, which means serving substantial meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal. They may only serve alcohol as part of such a meal.  Therefore, your business may only continue to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises if – 1. the alcohol is only served for consumption on the premises as part of a ‘**table meal**’
2. the food and drink are ordered by, and served to, a customer who is seated on the premises, and
3. you take all reasonable steps to ensure that customer remains seated whilst consuming the food and drink on the premises.

A **“table meal”** is: * A meal that you’d expect to serve as a main midday or main evening meal (or as a main course at either such meal)
* A meal eaten by a person seated at a table, (or at a counter/or other structure functioning as a table where people are seated)

For the avoidance of doubt, alcohol can only be ordered if the customer is ordering or consuming a substantial meal deemed to be a table meal and businesses should exercise judgement in line with the licensing objectives, around what is considered to be reasonable when alcohol is ordered and consumed during the relevant timeframe.The Authority will expect businesses to ensure that customers do not undermine the purpose of the restrictions. **If your business is not currently registered with Environmental Health to provide food** and you want to introduce food preparation and provision, you need to contact Environmental Health to discuss your plans and food safety controls.  Points to consider are: * You must register with Environmental Health at least 28 days before opening.  However, due to the current circumstances, if you intend to provide food, then you need to register as soon as possible.  You can do this online at: <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/foodsafety/registration>
* For further advice on setting up a food business please refer to the following <https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/setting-up-a-food-business>
* You will need a Food Safety Management System – The Food Standard Agency’s (FSA) Safer Food Better Business Catering Pack is recommended.
* Allergen management plans must be documented, implemented and all staff trained in how to deal with allergen queries.

 Food Safety inspections will take place unannounced and an assessment will be made of hygiene practices, cleanliness, structure and management systems.  A food hygiene rating will be issued and displayed on the FSA website. Any queries can be sent to: publicprotection-es@tameside.gov.uk In addition, the following COVID restrictions remain in place;  * You must operate in a COVID-secure manner.
* Food and drink must be ordered from, and served at, a table, in both indoor and outdoor licensed premises.
* Take reasonable steps to ensure customers do not socialise with anybody they do not live with (or have formed a support bubble with), either inside the venue or in any outdoor area.
* Where premises are permitted to open, the 10pm curfew continues to have effect.
* Businesses selling food for consumption off the premises, can continue to do so after 10pm if this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-thru.
* You are required to collect customer, visitor and staff data to support NHS Test and Trace.  You also need to display the official NHS QR code poster so that customers can ‘check-in’ using this option.  [www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster](http://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster)
* You must check that customers have used the QR code to check in.  If they don’t use the QR code you must take the customer’s details, which should be kept for 21 days.
* You must carry out a COVID risk assessment in relation to measures you have in place to keep your staff safe.  All staff need to read it and ensure they comply with it [www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/assets/docs/risk-assessment.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/assets/docs/risk-assessment.pdf)
* Staff must stay 2m apart and must wear face coverings.
* Customers must wear face coverings, except when seated at a table to eat and drink.  You must remind your customers to wear face coverings.
* Signs advising customers to wear face coverings must be placed in prominent positions throughout the premises.
* If your employees are required to self-isolate, you must not allow them to continue to work in any setting.

 Licensing and Environmental Health will be carrying out monitoring visits and whilst we recognise the implications and consequences of these restrictions on local businesses, those that fail to comply may face fines of up to £10,000, prosecution, or in some cases closure.   |

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