



BIZ BUZZ CRISIS UPDATE 12-10-2020 (1800)

NEW GOVERNMENT COVID-19 REGULATIONS WILL COME INTO FORCE ON WEDNESDAY....BUT NOT IN NORFOLK.....YET. INFECTIONS INCREASING ACROSS THE COUNTRY. MPs VOTE ON THE MEASURES TOMORROW.

PM Boris Johnson told the House of Commons that the number of cases has quadrupled in the last three weeks. There are more people in hospital with Covid now than there were on March 23rd when we first went into lockdown. He said he didn't want to go back into lockdown but equally he didn't want to let the virus rip. The R level (of transmission) is currently 1.2-1.5. It needs to be brought down to below 1. The PM says he's now simplifying the rules. However, let's be clear. The rules are NOT simple and will change throughout the next 6 months. They'll be reviewed after every 4 weeks. MPs will debate and vote on the measures on Tuesday

There are three levels of danger: Medium, High and Very High. Most of the country goes into the Medium tier. Those already under special restrictions go into high or (in the case of Liverpool) Very High.

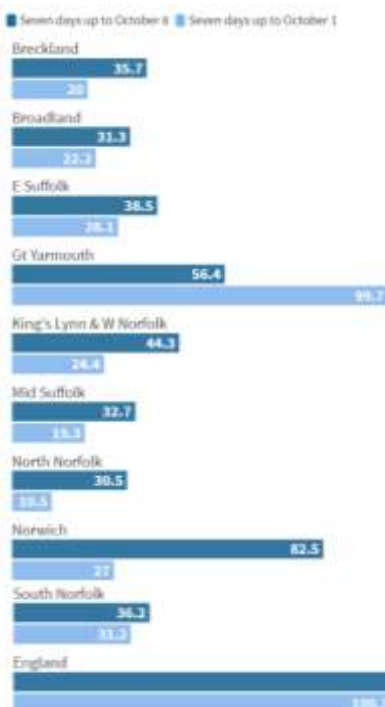
Across the board retail, schools and universities will stay open. Sadly, hospitality will take the hit.

Medium - the current national levels rule of 6 and the current closures of pubs at 10 that's for most of the country. Rules of 6 inside and outside.

High – More restrictions brought in. Household mixing banned indoors. Rule of six applies outdoors and in private gardens. Most of the areas suffering restrictions alr from 6am to 6pm. Additional restrictions in place in central belt already move into this tier.

Very high. Additional and stricter rules apply. Social mixing is banned indoors and outdoors. Pubs and bars, casinos and gyms, betting shops and leisure centres will be closed.

NORFOLK COVID CASES PER 100,000



Source: Public Health England

WHICH REGIONS IN WHICH TIERS?

We don't know yet except Liverpool City, with 608 cases per 100,000, will go to **very high** alert from Wednesday. It's not clear how other regions will be categorised. Norfolk County Council Leader Andrew Proctor says Norfolk stays in the medium category - with the same restrictions he wants more local involvement in the decision making with Government. He praised the public response to the Banham outbreak and called for even more vigilance. He also said they had stockpiled personal protective equipment. They have also prepared Cawston Lodge to support the safe discharge of Covid patients and to protect care homes.

There will be more Government funding:

- Boosted funds for test and trace,
- Help from the military forces to implement the rules,
- There will be cash grants for businesses ordered to close in local lockdowns - up to £3,000 per month

A job support scheme to help those businesses which have been ordered to close.

(NOTE: This assistance does NOT apply to those businesses which will be damaged or may have to close as a result of the lockdown.) The idea is that the worker has to be doing at least one third of their normal hours. The remaining unworked time is paid for like this: two thirds from the government (67%) up to a maximum of £2,100 per month. The worker therefore loses one third of the unworked hours. The full details of the offer is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/job-support-scheme-expanded-to-firms-required-to-close-due-to-covid-restrictions>

OTHER GOVERNMENT HELP ALREADY ANNOUNCED : See the full details here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/winter-economy-plan>

HERE ARE THE MEDIUM TIER WHICH WILL INCLUDE BRECKLAND...WE THINK!!!

You can meet in a group of up to six people from multiple households. This includes children and applies indoors and outdoors, including private homes. There are exceptions, for example if your household or support bubble is larger than six. You could be fined for breaking these rules.

Going to work

You should work at home if possible. If you have to return to your workplace your employer must make arrangements for you to work safely.

Schools and nurseries

Primary and secondary schools are open, as are nurseries and childcare. If a school has coronavirus cases, local health protection teams will advise what to do.

Leisure time

Pubs, bars and restaurants must close at 22:00 BST. They are restricted to table service only. Face coverings must be worn, except when seated to eat or drink.

Shopping

Shops can open with social distancing measures in place. Face coverings must be worn by customers and staff.

Other

Face coverings must be worn on public transport and indoor areas such as museums and cinemas. You can be fined £200 for breaking the rules.

Anyone in Norfolk who is experiencing Covid-19 symptoms should book a test. See the details here: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/

If you need to get information, advice or need to apply for loans from **Breckland District Council** here is the link: www.breckland.gov.uk/coronavirus

All Biz Buzz crisis updates are to be found on www.np4nb.online