

WELSH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

Last Updated October 28th

From Friday 23rd October at 6pm all of Wales will enter a two week Firebreak COVID Lockdown meaning that all pubs MUST close.

For guidance on closing down your pub, please click [here](#).

For general FAQs please see below alternatively refer to the Admiral Guidance by clicking [here](#)

Wales Lockdown Business Fund

- **£1000 grant available for all businesses in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief.**
An additional discretionary grant is available for any businesses with a Rateable Value of under £12,000 (forced to close due to the firebreak)
- **£5000 grant available – for all businesses of a Rateable Value of £12,001 - £51,000**
- **£1000 grant available – from local authorities on a discretionary basis.**
Available for businesses who have been adversely affected by local lockdown measures for 21 days or more prior to the firebreak period

To view a list of all the available grants, click [here](#)

What does a "firebreak lockdown" mean?

A short, sharp firebreak will be introduced across Wales from 23rd October to help regain control of coronavirus. This means that a series of restrictive measures will be in place from 6pm Friday 23 October until the start of Monday 9 November 2020.

Why is this being done?

The fortnight-long action is needed to save lives and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed.

Cases of coronavirus have been rising sharply in Wales as the virus has woken up for winter. While the national and local measures put in place across Wales have helped to keep that spread under check, there is a growing consensus that additional action is now needed.

Between October 9 and 15, there were 4,127 new confirmed cases of coronavirus recorded by Public Health Wales, based on positive test results but the real level of infections will be

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much higher. The number of people admitted to hospital with coronavirus symptoms is growing daily and sadly so too are the number of people dying with coronavirus.

The R number is currently between 1.1 and 1.4, meaning continued exponential growth in the number of cases and the seven-day rolling incidence rate for Wales stands at more than 130 cases per 100,000 population.

What restrictions will be in place?

There are 5 main things:

- people must stay at home, except for very limited purposes
- people must not visit other households or meet other people they do not live with
- certain businesses and venues, including bars, restaurants and most shops must close
- secondary schools will provide learning online only for the week after half-term, other than for children in years seven and eight. Primary schools and childcare settings will remain open.
- face coverings continue to be mandatory in the indoor public spaces that remain open (subject to certain exemptions and exceptions), including on public transport and in taxis

If you break these new laws:

- You may be told to go home or removed from where you are and returned home.
- You could have to pay a fixed penalty notice of £60. This will rise to £120 for the second breach,
- Or you could have criminal proceedings brought against you, and if found guilty, you will have to pay a fine.

Even where something may be allowed, we ask you not to think about whether it is permitted but whether it is truly necessary and sensible. The purpose of this short lockdown is to create a concerted national effort to do everything we can to stop the spread of coronavirus, and every individual contribution to that counts.

How long will these measures stay in place?

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These measures will be in place from 6pm Friday 23 October until the start of Monday 9 November 2020.

What will happen after Monday 9 November?

Following the end of the firebreak, a new set of national rules will be introduced, covering how people can meet and how the public sector and businesses operate.

My area is currently subject to local restrictions – do these continue as well?

No – the circuit breaker lockdown will apply in the same way across Wales.

What are the rules on face coverings?

The rules on face coverings will not change during the short lockdown period. Please visit our separate [face coverings FAQs page](#).

Can businesses operate a delivery service, even if they are required to close

Yes. Businesses can provide an online or telephone delivery service, even if they are required to close.

Are cafes, restaurants, pubs and bars able to open?

These premises are allowed to open for takeaway services only. Food and drink may not be consumed at the premises. Physical distancing measures will be applied, and customers and staff will be required to wear a face covering.

What entertainment venues are closed?

All entertainment venues, such as cinemas, theatres and bowling alleys, must be closed. Please see the [business closures guidance](#) for more information.

Are accommodation businesses in Wales allowed to open?

No, all accommodation businesses are required to be closed.

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However, an accommodation business which is closed can still provide specific services at the request of the Welsh Government or a Local Authority. Such services would primarily be for the provision of emergency accommodation for people who are homeless or key workers provided under contract to the Local Authority or a Health body. **Measures must be in place to protect people from coronavirus.**