

Tourism Matters: Latest COVID-19 Restrictions Information

Following the Prime Minister's statement on Monday 23rd November on the Government's winter COVID-19 plan and the confirmation yesterday that **Thanet will be in Tier 3 when the national lockdown ends at 00:01 on Wednesday 2nd December**, herewith an update for you.

We've kept in the Business Grants information from last week, plus there is information on a free Business Recovery Webinar being run by VisitEngland, 'Create Videos with YouTube' being run by Google Digital Garage.

If you know somebody who would like to read our e-news, please forward it on, or let them know they can register to receive it themselves on [visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters](https://www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters)

Thanet District Council

COVID-19 Protect Thanet

The COVID-19 cases in our area are currently very high. The council has been issuing communications to residents to help get the message out and encourage people to follow the rules. The message is simple, if you don't you're putting yourself, your family and the community at risk.

Here are just some of the things we have been doing to tackle the situation:

- Working with partners Public Health, KCC, the NHS and the Police to take a joined up approach
- Using new COVID wardens to advise the public
- Supporting residents via our Community Helpline
- Directly contacting the clinically extremely vulnerable to offer support
- Working with GP surgeries to text patients in the wards most affected and sending postcards to households in areas where numbers are high
- Enforcing businesses flouting the rules
- Sharing the latest statistics on our website and social media
- Regular media appearances by the Council Leader - radio, TV, print and a video message on social media

You can help us spread the message to residents, your friends, family and in your networks, by sharing our social media posts.

New COVID-19 Ambassadors

Three new COVID-19 Ambassadors have been introduced this week. They will support the council's Environmental Health team and visit the 1,400 food and licensed premises in the district to provide advice and guidance on how to comply with the current COVID-19 legislation. Reports of breaches will be passed to the council's Environmental Health Officers who will then carry out any subsequent enforcement action.

The focus of the COVID-19 Ambassadors is education. They will not have any enforcement powers but will assist by sending referrals to the council's Covid Enforcement Manager who

in turn feeds intelligence into the joint working group of Kent Police, Trading Standards and Kent County Council.

These posts are being funded by the £92,000 received from the [Government's COVID-19 Emergency Funding for Local Government](#). COVID-19 Ambassadors are in addition to the Street Wardens who are out on our high streets every day managing pedestrian flow and queues, encouraging people to adhere to social distancing and reminding them of the need to wear face coverings in stores unless exempt.

More information is available on the Thanet District Council [website](#).

Business Grants Information

The information below was included in last week's update, but we wanted to include it again this week to help ensure we are reaching the businesses who are eligible for this funding.

Thanet District Council has launched an online application form and is urging eligible local businesses that have been impacted by the national lockdown, to submit their details to receive funding from either the national or discretionary business support grants:

- National: Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum scheme for businesses that pay business rates and have been legally required to close as a result of the national lockdown restrictions.
- Discretionary: Additional Restrictions Grants scheme which is the discretionary part of the above and will provide support for other businesses significantly affected by national restrictions.

Businesses that are in administration, in liquidation or where a striking-off notice has been made will not be eligible for funding under these schemes. Anti-fraud checks will be in place.

Payments will be backdated to Thursday 5th November when the national lockdown began. Local businesses are advised to go to [thanet.gov.uk/business-advice](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/business-advice) and check if they are eligible. If so, please apply now and payments will be processed as quickly as possible

[Apply online for a grant for your business](#)

If you're still unsure if you qualify, please contact the Business Rates Team directly at businesscashgrants@thanet.gov.uk.

Thanet Business Support Facebook page

The council is also supporting the local Thanet business community via a dedicated Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/ThanetBusinessSupport](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ThanetBusinessSupport). As a member of this group, businesses will be able to access up-to-date guidance from the council, as well as advice from its Business Support consultant who some local businesses may have already met.

Government Advice and Updates

On Monday afternoon (23rd November) [Prime Minister Boris Johnson gave a statement](#) to the House of Commons on the [Government's COVID-19 Winter Plan](#). The Prime Minister confirmed that the national restrictions in England will end at 00.01 on Wednesday 2nd December and that the country will move back into a regional tiered approach. These tiers will be tougher than previously.

Decisions on tiers are made by ministers based on public health recommendations informed by the following factors:

1. Case detection rate (in all age groups and, in particular, among the over 60s)
2. How quickly case rates are rising or falling
3. Positivity in the general population
4. Pressure on the NHS – including current and projected (3 to 4 weeks out) NHS capacity – including admissions, general/acute/ICU bed occupancy, staff absences
5. Local context and exceptional circumstances such as a local but contained outbreak.

It was confirmed yesterday that **Thanet will be in Tier 3 - Very High alert**. A [postcode checker](#) is available to show which restrictions apply in which area.

The first review point for the tier allocations will take place by **Wednesday 16 December**.

[Guidance on the restrictions](#) that will be applicable in each tier has been published. Please see the key guidance from Tier 3 below. The new rules will come into effect from the beginning of Wednesday 2nd December, from which time people will be able to leave home for any purpose and meet people outside their household subject to the rule of 6, collective worship and weddings can resume, shops and gyms can reopen (see caveats below).

Tier 3: Very High alert

In tier 3:

- People must not meet socially indoors or in most outdoor places with anybody they do not live with, or who is not in their support bubble, this includes in any private garden or at most outdoor venues.
- People must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in some other outdoor public spaces, including parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, a public garden, grounds of a heritage site or castle, or a sports facility.
- Hospitality settings, such as bars (including shisha venues), pubs, cafes and restaurants are closed – they are permitted to continue sales by takeaway, click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery services.
- Accommodation such as hotels, B&Bs, campsites, and guest houses must close. There are several exemptions, such as for those who use these venues as their main residence, and those requiring the venues where it is reasonably necessary for work or education and training.
- Indoor entertainment and tourist venues must close. This includes:
 - play centres and areas, cinemas, theatres and concert halls, trampolining parks, soft play, casinos, bingo halls, bowling alleys, skating rinks, amusement arcades, adult gaming centres, laser quests and escape rooms, snooker halls
- Indoor attractions at mostly outdoor entertainment venues must also close (although indoor shops, through-ways and public toilets at such attractions can remain open). This includes indoor attractions within:

- zoos, safari parks, and wildlife reserves, aquariums, visitor attractions at farms, and other animal attractions, model villages, museums, galleries and sculpture parks, botanical gardens, biomes or greenhouses, theme parks, circuses, fairgrounds and funfairs, visitor attractions at film studios, heritage sites such as castles and stately homes, landmarks including observation decks and viewing platforms.
- Leisure and sports facilities may continue to stay open, but group exercise classes (including fitness and dance) should not go ahead. Saunas and steam rooms should close.
- There should be no public attendance at spectator sport or indoor performances and large business events should not be taking place. Elite sport events may continue to take place without spectators.
- Large outdoor events (performances and shows) should not take place, with the exception of drive-in events.
- [Weddings](#) and [funerals](#) can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees – 15 people can attend wedding ceremonies, wedding receptions are not allowed, 30 people can attend funeral ceremonies, 15 people can attend linked commemorative events.
- Organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue, however higher-risk contact activity should not take place.
- Organised indoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes cannot take place indoors. See full guidance for exceptions.
- People can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, but should aim to reduce the number of journeys they make where possible.
- Travel to other parts of the UK, including for overnight stays should be avoided, other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities. Travel through other areas as part of a longer journey is permitted.

[See the full guidance for the exemptions from gathering limits in all tiers](#)

Other Government updates

New venues required to maintain records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace (England)

[Cinemas, concert venues and theatres](#) have been added to the list of venues that must have a system in place to request and record contact details of their customers, visitors and staff to help break the chains of transmission of coronavirus and support NHS Test and Trace. The list of indoor sports and leisure centres has been updated to include gyms.

Updates the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme guidance

- Information on what [HMRC may deem to be a reasonable excuse](#) for missing a claim deadline has been added to the claim wages through the CJRS page. The guidance has also been updated to make it clear that if a claim deadline falls on the weekend or a bank holiday then claims should be submitted on the next working day.

- The [CJRS calculation guidance](#) has been updated to clarify how to work out 80% of employees' average earnings between the date their employment started and the day before they are furloughed.

VisitBritain/VisitEngland

Business Recovery Webinar - Create Video with YouTube on Thursday 3rd December, 11am to 12pm

VisitEngland is partnering with Google Digital Garage who provide free online and live webinar digital skills training to individuals and businesses in the UK, to help people find a job, grow their skills, careers or businesses from home.

During this FREE webinar, they will cover how to understand your brand and target audience's behaviours, write, storyboard and film engaging videos, market your content to users and measure your success.

In this session you will learn:

- How to identify your niche
- Top tips for creating engaging content
- Ways to increase your video's discoverability

[Click here](#) to register

Visit Kent

Creating value through innovation - Monday 14th December 10am - 2pm

At the experience development workshops there was a lot of discussion around how best to price new products and experiences. To support businesses further in this area, as part of their Covid-19 Business Recovery Response Webinar series, University of Kent are inviting businesses to join their '*Creating Value Through Innovation - In the Tourism and Leisure Sector*' webinar with Dr Juliane Thieme and Adam Smith in collaboration with Go To Places.

With the ongoing pandemic, tourism businesses have been forced to adapt and innovate in response to the changing guidance and consumer behaviour but how can businesses implement these changes in a financially viable way? How do you set a price point, whilst being careful not to price yourself out of the market but with nothing to compare against. With capacity being capped, how does this affect the pricing model? Where can you add value and create new revenue streams?

This webinar will look at these questions, explore best practice examples and discuss potential solutions. Bring your questions to the initiated discussions in the Q&A session

[Click here to register](#)

Your News

Open School East, Margate is accepting applications for their 2021/22 Associates Programme from artists, makers, musicians, researchers, curators, writers and performers.

To find out more about the programme visit their website here
(<https://openschooleast.org/call-for-2021-22-associates-artists/>) Application close Monday
4th January at 10am

Congratulations to **The Isle of Thanet News** which was recently announced winner of the
'Commitment to the Community' award in the Kent Press and Broadcasting Awards 2020
and Highly Commended for Kent News Website of the Year. Also congratulations to
Margate Mercury which was awarded 'Highly Commended Kent Magazine of the Year' and
to **Isle Magazine** which was a finalist in the same category

Full details can be found at www.kpbawards.co.uk/results2020