

## Tourism Matters - Latest COVID-19 News

We wanted to share the latest guidance updates with you including new legislation for Tier 3, extending opening hours for shops in the run up to Christmas and during January, guidance for the Christmas period and other updates.

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

This month, Thanet District Council will be encouraging people to stay safe and stay local. Expect to see lots of activity on social media, radio adverts and new high street signage encouraging people to shop locally and support our independent retailers, especially in the run up to Christmas.

Don't forget there is FREE parking every Saturday in the following car parks: Cannon Road Car Park in Ramsgate, Mill Lane Multi-Storey in Margate, Harold Road Car Park in Cliftonville and St Peter's Park Road in Broadstairs. On Birchington High Street, Thanet District Council has extended the 30 minute additional parking with a valid pay and display until Thursday 31st December 2020.

Once again, Thanet District Council urges you to check if you are eligible for either the Local Restrictions Support Grant (closed) or the Additional Restrictions Grant. Applications for this discretionary grant will close 30 days after the end of the national lockdown so if you haven't submitted a claim, please do so.

There will be grants available for businesses that cannot open under Tier 3 restrictions. Thanet District Council is expecting application forms to be ready in mid-December and will keep you updated. Thanet District Council understands that businesses need this help and are working hard to get payments made as quickly as possible.

### **Thanet Business Support**

Don't forget, there is a dedicated Facebook Group for local businesses in Thanet. Join at [www.facebook.com/groups/ThanetBusinessSupport](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ThanetBusinessSupport) for updates and support. And look out for a survey coming soon too!

Businesses can also sign up to our database to receive direct updates. Please email [highstreets@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:highstreets@thanet.gov.uk) with the following information:

- Business Name
- Main contact name
- Position in the business
- Business address
- Telephone Number
- Email address

### **By joining the database, you are consenting to:**

The data you provide is gathered on behalf of Thanet District Council to improve the council's communication with local businesses. The data you provide will be used by TDC only and will not be shared with third parties.

The data will be stored and retained in accordance with the council's privacy notices which can be found on the council website, or provided on request.

You may request that your data is removed at any time or notify us of changes/corrections to this data.

## Government Advice and Updates

### **New guidance for each Tier**

The Government has published new guidance on what people and businesses can and can't do in each tier level, with effect from Wednesday 2nd December. Please see some key points of clarification provided for tier 3, which Thanet is in.

### **Tier 3: Very High alert**

- **Businesses and venues selling alcohol** for consumption off the premises can continue to do so as long as this is through takeaway, delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through.
- **Food or alcohol purchased** from a hospitality premises via takeaway or click-and-collect may not be consumed on any part of that premises, including beer gardens, as well as adjacent seating to the premises (with exceptions for motorway service areas, airports, seaports, the international terminal at Folkestone and public transport services although these places cannot sell alcohol after 11pm).
- **Accommodation** such as hotels, B&Bs, campsites, holiday lets and guest houses must close with limited exceptions.
- **Businesses that remain open in law**, but are located within accommodation, such as a spa within a hotel, can remain open.
- **Please note:** These restrictions on accommodation do not apply between 22nd to 28th December 2020. This means that accommodation may open during this period for people to stay in order to be located near their Christmas bubbles. However other restrictions, such as those on hospitality and social contact still apply - so people cannot mix with their Christmas bubble in a hotel, for example, unless a member of their bubble lives there permanently. Please see separate guidance for more information on the rules for social contact during the Christmas period (23rd to 27th December).
- **Indoor** play centres and areas, trampolining parks, casinos, bingo halls, bowling alleys, indoor skating rinks, amusement arcades and adult gaming centres, nightclubs and adult entertainment venues, laser quests and escape rooms, cinemas, theatres concert halls – other than drive-in events, broadcasting performances, training or rehearsal, circuses, snooker and pool halls (other than for elite athletes) must close.
- **Indoor attractions** at zoos, safari parks, and aquariums, other animal attractions including farms, water parks and aqua parks, model villages, museums, galleries and sculpture parks, botanical or other gardens, biomes or greenhouses, theme parks, fairgrounds and funfairs, adventure playgrounds and parks, including ziplining, visitor attractions at film studios, heritage sites such as castles, stately homes or heritage railways, landmarks including observation wheels and viewing platforms must close.
- **Outdoor tourism and entertainment venues** can remain open subject to following the relevant rules and guidelines.
- **Outdoor cinemas, theatres and concert venues** can remain open for drive-in only, but must close at 11pm, other than for the purposes of concluding a performance which began before 10pm.
- **Outdoor events**, such as funfairs can continue to happen in line with COVID-secure guidance – other than large outdoor performance events (performances, shows and screenings), which must be drive-in only.

- **Retail premises** may open, other than shops situated inside closed premises that cannot be accessed directly from the street – retail premises within accommodation may also stay open.

[See the full guidance](#)

### **Boost for high street with extended opening hours for Christmas shopping**

In a much-needed boost for the high street, retailers will be able to extend their daily opening hours from Monday to Saturday in the run up to Christmas and through January, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announced on Monday 30th November 2020.

From Wednesday 2nd December, as England returns to a system of tiered restrictions, all non-essential retail across England will be able to reopen, and planning rules limiting opening hours will be eased to allow shops to be open for longer Monday to Saturday.

Further information can be [found here](#).

### **Guidance for the Christmas Period**

[Guidance for the Christmas period](#) has been published. It covers where the guidelines differ between 23rd-27th December and where activities will not change. Some points to note include:

- Between 23rd and 27th December, the rules on who you can meet in bars, pubs and restaurants will not change.
- Although there are exemptions for work purposes, people must not have a work Christmas lunch or party, where that is a primarily social activity and is not otherwise permitted by the rules in their tier of residence.
- From 2nd December, the rules on attending events, including performances and Christmas or other festive lighting ceremonies will depend on the tier the area is in. The rules might be different for indoor and outdoor events. [Check the rules for each tier](#). Between 23rd and 27th December, the rules on indoor events will not change. Christmas bubbles can attend outdoor events during this period.
- Between 23rd and 27th December, people may travel between tiers and other nations of the UK if necessary to meet with other households in their Christmas bubble or return home. Once at the destination, they should follow the rules in that [tier](#)
- **People can stay in a hotel in England, including in tier 3, during the Christmas period as long as they're staying alone or with other members of their household, or support bubble.**
- **People can stay in private rented accommodation with members of their household, or their Christmas bubble.**

### **Heritage locations guidance updates**

In tier 3, indoor heritage attractions will be required to close. Outdoor heritage locations including historic parks, gardens, landscapes, and ruins and monuments open to the elements, can remain open as long as the social distancing rules are observed. In tier 3, such outdoor sites are subject to the rule of 6, whether you pay to access them or not (as public outdoor spaces similar to public parks). [See the full guidance here](#)

### **Self-Employment Income Support Scheme**

The [online service](#) to apply for the third grant is now available.

### **Face covering guidance**

The guidance on [face coverings](#) has been updated with information on wearing visors, **a face visor or shield may be worn in addition to a face covering but not instead of one.** This is because face visors or shields do not adequately cover the nose and mouth.

### **Assets for Working Safely**

The latest up to date working safely guidance can be seen [here](#).

A working safely video can be found [here](#).

For further details on working safely, **see videos for pubs, bars and restaurants for tier 3:** [Tier 3 - Very High alert hospitality guidance video](#)

### **Tier Posters - Medium alert, High alert and Very High alert tiers**

For posters displaying information about the various tiers of restrictions in England from 2 December 2020 click [here](#).

### **[Other News](#)**

#### **Small Business Saturday 5th December**

Now in its eighth year in the UK, the campaign has grown significantly each year with an estimated £800m spent in small businesses across the UK on 2019's Small Business Saturday, with a record turnout of 17.6 million people choosing to shop small on the day.

Register your business on the [Small Business Finder](#) and find out more on how you can get involved and the tools available to help you.

#### **[Tourism and Visitor Information Service News](#)**

The Thanet Visitor Information Centre at Droit House remains closed until at least Wednesday 16th December. Opening after this date is dependent on the next lockdown tier announcement. The team is still available by telephone, email and social media between 10am-5pm, Wednesday to Sunday for any enquiries.

Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre at Customs House will be closed until the New Year.