

Tourism Matters: Tier 4 'Stay at Home' Information

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague

Following the Prime Minister's press conference on Saturday 19 December announcing changes to the Tiers and Christmas arrangements, we wanted to provide you with the latest information on these changes

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 www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters

Government Updates

From Sunday 20 December, Thanet and Kent moved into 'Tier 4 - Stay at Home' because of rising rates. The new Tier 4 restrictions will be broadly equivalent to national restrictions which were in place in England in November. Tiers will be formally reviewed on Wednesday 30th December

We recommend you read the full Government guidance on what you can and can't do in a [Tier 4 area](#). For ease we have provided the relevant information below but encourage you to visit the Government website to ensure you are kept up-to-date as the situation develops.

Businesses and venues which **MUST CLOSE** include

- **Non-essential retail**, such as clothing and homeware stores, vehicle showrooms (other than for rental), betting shops, tailors, tobacco and vape shops, electronic goods and mobile phone shops, and market stalls selling non-essential goods - these venues can continue to be able to operate click-and-collect (where goods are pre-ordered and collected off the premises) and delivery services.
- **Hospitality venues** such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs; with the exception of providing food and drink for takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery.
- **Accommodation** such as hotels, hostels, guest houses and campsites, except for specific circumstances, such as where these act as someone's main residence, where the person cannot return home, for homeless people, or where it is essential to stay there for work purposes.
- **Leisure and sports facilities** such as leisure centres and indoor gyms, indoor swimming pools, indoor tennis and basketball courts, indoor fitness and dance studios, indoor climbing walls.
- **Entertainment venues** such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, museums and galleries, casinos, amusement arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, skating rinks, go-karting venues, indoor play and soft play centres and areas (including inflatable parks and trampolining centres), circuses, fairgrounds, funfairs, zoos and other animal attractions, water parks and theme parks.
- **Indoor attractions at botanical gardens, heritage homes and landmarks** must also close, though outdoor grounds of these premises can stay open
- **Personal care facilities** such as hair, beauty, tanning and nail salons. Tattoo parlours, spas, massage parlours, body and skin piercing services must also close. It is also prohibited to provide these services in other people's homes.

- **Community centres and halls** must close except for a limited number of exempt activities, as set out below. Libraries can also remain open to provide access to IT and digital services - for example for people who do not have it at home - and for click-and-collect services.

These businesses and places will also be permitted to be open for a small number of exempt activities, including:

- **Education and training** - for schools to use sports, leisure and community facilities where that is part of their normal provision
- **Childcare purposes and supervised activities for children**
- Hosting **blood donation sessions** and **food banks**
- To provide **medical treatment**
- For **elite sports persons to train and compete** (in indoor and outdoor sports facilities), and professional dancers and choreographers to work (in fitness and dance studios)
- For **training and rehearsal without an audience** (in theatres and concert halls)
- For the purposes of **professional film and TV filming**

Businesses and venues which can remain open

Other businesses and venues are permitted to stay open, following COVID-19 Secure guidelines. This includes those providing essential goods and services, including:

- **Essential retail** such as food shops, supermarkets, pharmacies, garden centres and Christmas tree retailers, building merchants and suppliers of building products and off-licences
- **Market stalls selling essential retail** may also stay open
- **Laundrettes and dry cleaners**
- **Car parks, public toilets and motorway service areas**
- **Outdoor playgrounds**
- **Outdoor gyms, pools, sports courts and facilities**
- **Golf courses**
- **Archery/driving/shooting ranges** (outdoors)
- **Outdoor riding centres**

Travelling within a tier 4 area

If people live in a tier 4 area, they must stay at home and only travel for work, education or other legally permitted reasons. If they need to travel they should stay local - meaning avoiding travelling outside of their village, town or the part of a city where they live - and look to reduce the number of journeys made overall.

If you need to use public transport, you [should follow the safer travel guidance](#).

Travelling out of a tier 4 area

People may only leave tier 4 areas for legally permitted reasons such as travel to work where they cannot work from home, to education and for caring responsibilities. The full list of exceptions will be published in the Regulations.

Travelling to a tier 4 area from a tier 1, 2 or 3 area

People must not travel into a tier 4 area from another part of the UK, other than for reasons such as travel to work where it is not possible to work from home, etc.

International travel to or from a tier 4 area

If people are in tier 4, they should not be travelling abroad unless it is permitted and the public health advice in the country being visited needs considering.

For people who live outside a tier 4 area, they may still transit into or through a tier 4 area to travel abroad if they need to, but they should carefully consider whether they need to do so. In addition, the public health advice in the country being visited should be followed.

See the rules in place at the destination being visited and the [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office \(FCDO\) travel advice](#).

UK residents currently abroad do not need to return home immediately. However, they should check with their airline or travel operator on arrangements for returning.

Staying away from home overnight

People who live in tier 4 cannot leave home for holidays or stays overnight away from their main home unless permitted by law. This means that holidays in the UK and abroad are not allowed. This includes staying in a second home or caravan, or staying with anyone they do not live with or are in a support bubble with.

People are allowed to stay overnight away from your home if they:

- Are unable to return to their main residence
- Need accommodation while moving house
- Need accommodation to attend a funeral or related commemorative event
- Require accommodation for work purposes or to provide voluntary services
- Are a child requiring accommodation for school or care
- Are homeless, seeking asylum or a vulnerable person seeking refuge
- Are an elite athlete or their support staff or parent, if the athlete is under 18 and it is necessary to be outside of the home for training or competition

People on holiday in a tier 4 area, should return to their home as soon as practical.

Guest accommodation providers such as hotels, B&Bs and caravan parks may remain open for the specific reasons set out in law, including where guests are unable to return to their main residence, use that guest accommodation as their main residence, need accommodation while moving house, are self-isolating as required by law, or would otherwise be made homeless as a result of the accommodation closing. Accommodation providers are also encouraged to work cooperatively with Local Authorities to provide accommodation to vulnerable groups including the homeless in tier 4 areas.

Other points to note:

- People must not leave or be outside of their home except for where they have a specific purpose, or a 'reasonable excuse', such as work and volunteering,

essential activities such as shopping for essential items, including collecting food or drink -ordered through click-and-collect or as a takeaway, education and childcare, fulfilling legal obligations, exercise and recreation, medical reasons, communal workshop and life events.

- In general, people must not meet with another person socially or undertake any activities with another person. However, they can exercise or meet in a public outdoor place with people they live with, their support bubble (or as part of a childcare bubble), or with one other person.
- People can exercise or visit a public outdoor place, alone, with the people they live with, their support bubble or, when on their own, with 1 person from another household. Children under 5, and up to two carers for a person with a disability who needs continuous care are not counted towards the outdoors gatherings limit.
- Public outdoor places include: parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, forests, public gardens (whether or not you pay to enter them), allotments, the grounds of a heritage site, outdoor sports courts and facilities and playgrounds.
- Larger groups are permitted for a wedding or equivalent ceremony in exceptional circumstances, for example where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover ('deathbed wedding') or due to undergo debilitating treatment or life-changing surgery. These weddings are limited to 6 people.
- Funerals - up to a maximum of 30 people can take place. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events can continue in a group of up to 6.

View [the full tier 4 guidance](#)

New advice on travel is that everyone in all tiers should stay local and carefully consider whether to travel abroad. Those in tier 4 will not be permitted to travel abroad (except in exceptional circumstances).

Christmas Arrangements Update

The Christmas rules in England have been revised:

- Those living in tier 4 areas should not mix with anyone outside their household at Christmas (exceptions apply for support bubbles).
- In all other tiers, the meeting of three households will be limited to Christmas Day only.
- There will be no relaxation of the rules for New Year's Eve.

You can read the [press release](#) and [guidance](#) here.

Thanet District Council

Government prepares Manston to help manage disruption at Ports

At 11pm on Sunday 20 December, the French Government announced that it will not accept any passengers arriving from the UK for a period of 48 hours. As a result, the Port of Dover and Channel Tunnel are closed.

Operation Stack is currently being implemented on the coastbound carriageway of the M20 between Junctions 8 and 12. [See more information from KCC](#)

In addition, the Department for Transport is preparing Manston ready to support the KRF's (Kent Resilience Forum) plans to manage disruption following the French announcement on travel.

Although the Manston airport site has been set up to accommodate up to 4,000 lorries, the current message to all hauliers and wider travellers is to avoid heading to Kent Ports (including the Eurotunnel) entirely until further notice.

The Manston airport site has been earmarked by the Government as a temporary, back-up lorry holding facility in preparation for possible disruption over the Short Straits at the end of the EU transition period. The proposed use of the site is for a period of six months up to the end of June 2021.

For the most up to date information:

- [Check the Highways England website](#) or follow [@HighwaysSEAST on Twitter](#)
- [Follow Kent Police on Twitter](#)
- [Check the KCC Highways website](#)
- Visit www.eurotunnel.com
- Visit www.doverport.co.uk