

MEDIA RELEASE

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West Dunbartonshire placed under Level Four Covid-19 restrictions

West Dunbartonshire has been placed under Level Four restrictions following today's Covid-19 review from the Scottish Government.

The restrictions are the strictest of the five-level alert system brought in by the government to slow the spread of the virus across Scotland.

The new measures will come into place from 6pm on Friday 20 November and will be in place for three weeks.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the restrictions, which will be in place for all Greater Glasgow and Clyde authorities apart from Inverclyde, as well as Stirling and North and South Lanarkshire, will help to protect the NHS and could mean a slight easing of the rules for Christmas.

Under the Level Four restrictions, residents are being told to stay at home where possible, and limit social interaction.

Travelling out of or into a Level 4 area is also not permitted, and this will become enforceable by law from Friday.

A number of premises across the area will have to close, including non essential shops, pubs, cafes, and restaurants, though takeaways can continue operating.

In addition, leisure centres, gyms, beauty salons, hairdressers and other close contact retail services will be closed for the period of restrictions, along with indoor visitor attractions and all leisure and entertainment premises.

Holiday accommodation will be closed to tourism and hotels, B&Bs and self catering will only remain open for essential customers.

Schools, early learning centres and formal childcare settings can remain open, however informal childcare should only be provided for essential workers.

Residents will continue to be unable to visit each other's homes.

People from two different households can continue to meet outdoors in groups of no more than six people, providing existing guidance on face coverings, physical distancing and hygiene is adhered to.

The guidelines state that residents should only use public transport for essential journeys, and avoid car-sharing with other households wherever possible.

Places of worship can remain open for a maximum of 20 people, while weddings can go ahead with no more than 15 people, and no reception can be held.

Funerals and wakes can continue but the limit remains at 20 people.

In addition to the furlough scheme for staff unable to work due to restrictions, the Scottish Government has introduced a grant of up to £3000 every four weeks for closed businesses and a lesser grant for those essential businesses able to remain open but who are still impacted by the restrictions.

Money is also available for self-employed people unable to access other support. Full details of all the funding available will be released in the coming days.

Further information on level restrictions can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/pages/protection-level-4/>

Council Leader, Councillor Jonathan McColl, said: “While I understand these new restrictions are tough, they are intended to be a sharp shock to Covid-19, to significantly slow the spread of this dangerous virus in our communities.

“The restrictions are also intended to give us the best chance of enjoying some kind of family celebration at Christmas, which we all really want. Acting now and following the rules to reduce cases in our area is the only way we can secure a slight relaxation of restrictions as we approach the festive period.

“I know this will be tough for everyone, especially for the businesses that have to close their doors, but please do not give up hope. We will do everything we can to support you. We have all worked hard to fight this virus for months now, and these short-term measures will amplify the effects of our efforts so far, bringing us a step closer to bringing normality back to our lives. I would like to thank everyone in West Dunbartonshire for their continued support and the sacrifices they have already made and are continuing to make in our collective effort to stop the spread of Covid.

“I would urge everyone to familiarise themselves with the new restrictions ahead of Friday, and please continue to follow them strictly. We all must play our part in doing the right thing for West Dunbartonshire, each other and our extended families.”

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Note to editors

1. Contact Lauren Crooks, West Dunbartonshire Council, on tel: 01389 737767 or email: lauren.crooks@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
2. West Dunbartonshire Council serves 89,000 residents and a lively business community in an area stretching from the banks of Loch Lomond to the shores of the Clyde. The region is one of great diversity and natural beauty, just half an hour from the heart of Glasgow, and includes the towns of Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria. It has a rich past, shaped by its world-famous shipyards, and boasts many attractions, ranging from the rugged beauty of Dumbarton Rock to historic whisky warehouses. The Council has big ambitions to deliver first class services, grow the local economy, revitalise the region's town centres and waterfront, and provide a modern education service for future generations.