



Cabinet Office

COVID-19: Guidance for the Christmas period

Friday, 25 December

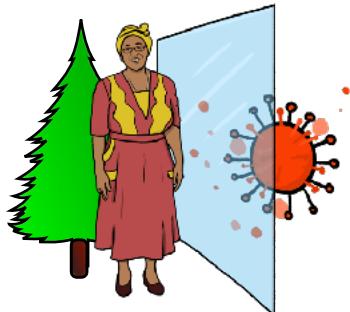


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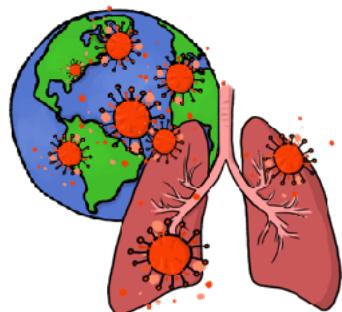
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Introduction



These are the Government rules that will help to keep everyone safe from **COVID-19** over the Christmas period.



COVID-19 is also called Coronavirus. It is a new illness that is spreading around the world. It can affect your lungs and breathing.



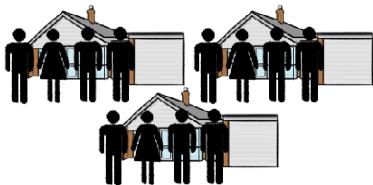
The Christmas period

Christmas is on Friday, 25 December.



The safest way to spend Christmas is with the people you normally live with, in the same house.

Christmas bubble



For some people in certain parts of the country the rules allow you to meet up inside, with up to 2 other **households** to make a ‘Christmas bubble’.



A **household** means people that live together in the same house.

There is some separate Easy Read guidance about Christmas bubbles.



Meeting up

Keep visits as small and short as you can.



The more people you see and the more time you spend with them, the more likely you are to catch or spread COVID-19.



Before and after meeting for Christmas you should have less contact with other people. This includes on New Year’s Eve.

Tiers

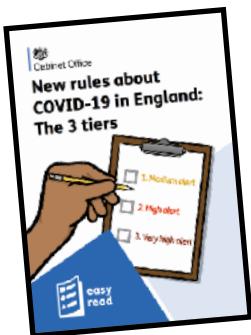


From Saturday, 19 December the Government has put the different areas of England into 1 of 4 **tiers**.



A **tier** is a level.

There are different rules for each tier.



There is some separate Easy Read guidance that explains the rules for each tier.



You can find out which tier you are in by going to:
www.gov.uk/tiers-by-area

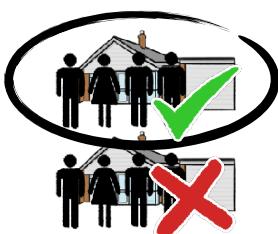
Visiting bars, pubs and restaurants



Between Wednesday, 23 December and Sunday, 27 December the rules for visiting bars, pubs and restaurants will depend on which tier you are in.



If you are in tier 1 you must not mix in groups of more than 6 in a bar, pub or restaurant.



If you are in tier 2 you must not mix in a bar, pub or restaurant with anyone who is not in your household.



In tiers 3 and 4, bars, pubs and restaurants will be closed except for takeaways.

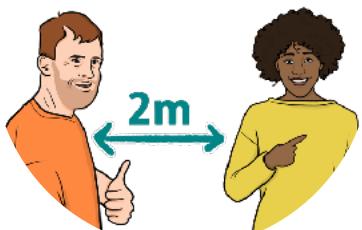


You must not have a Christmas lunch or party with the people you work with.

Visiting churches and other places of worship



If you are in Tiers 1 - 3, you may go to a place of worship on Christmas Day with members of your Christmas bubble.



You should keep 2 metres apart from other people who are there.

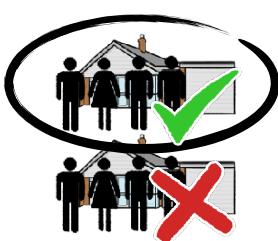
Visiting shops and Christmas markets



The rules for visiting shops and Christmas markets will depend on which tier you are in.



If you are in tier 1 you must not mix in groups of more than 6 in a shop or Christmas market.



If you are in tier 2 you must not mix with anyone who is not in your household, in a shop or Christmas market.

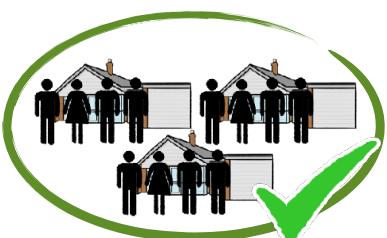


In tier 3 and tier 4, shops and Christmas markets will be closed except for certain reasons. Food shops can stay open.

Going to events



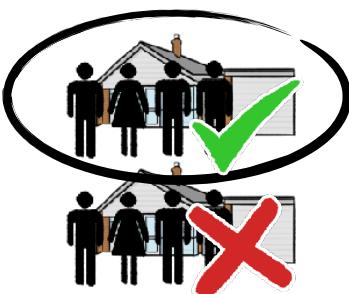
An **event** is a show or performance. It includes switching on Christmas lights.



If you are in tiers 1 - 3 you can go to outdoor events with your Christmas bubble on Christmas Day, 25 December.



If you are in tier 1 you must not mix in groups of more than 6 at an event.



If you are in tier 2 you must not mix with anyone who is not in your household at an event.



In tiers 3 and 4, indoor events will be cancelled.

Celebrating New Year's Eve



Your Christmas bubble will have finished before New Year's Eve.

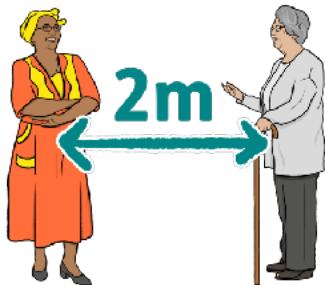


Bars, pubs and restaurants will have to close by 11pm at the latest.



The rules for what you can do on New Year's Eve will depend on which tier you are in.

Carol singing



Indoors

You can go to a carol service indoors if you keep 2 metres apart from anyone who is not in your household or bubble.

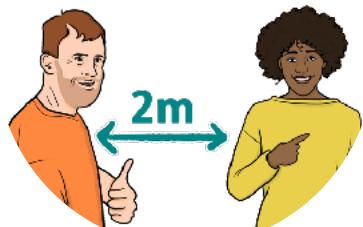


It's best to walk or cycle to the carol service.



You should not join in with any singing because COVID-19 spreads more easily through singing.

Outdoors



You can go to a carol event outdoors if you keep 2 metres from anyone who is not in your household or bubble.



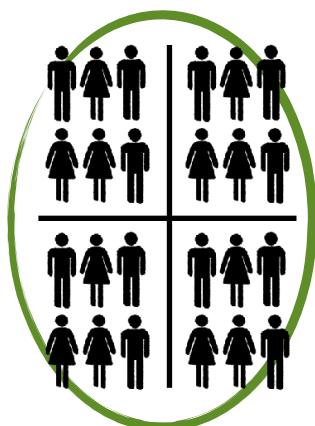
If you are in tier 1, you can mix with up to 6 people.

You can join in the singing outdoors.

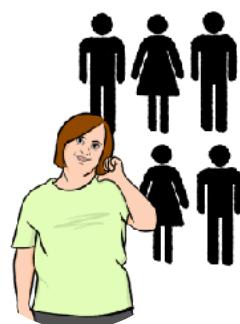


Door to door carol singing

If you are carol singing outside people's front doors, you must be in a group of up to 6.



Your group of 6 can be part of a larger choir, but you must keep at least 2 metres away from any other groups in the choir.



You must stay with the same group of 6 people.



It's best to walk or cycle if you are travelling to do the carol singing.

Work, school, college and university



Work

You should carry on working from home if you can.



School and college

You should go to school and college until they close for the Christmas break.



University

You should stay at university until your classes finish.



You can travel home between Thursday, 3 December and Wednesday, 9 December.

Events at school



Events at school might be concerts or plays.



Schools can have concerts or plays if they follow the rules for schools.



In tiers 1 and 2, families and friends can come and watch the event.



In tiers 3 and 4, families and friends cannot come.

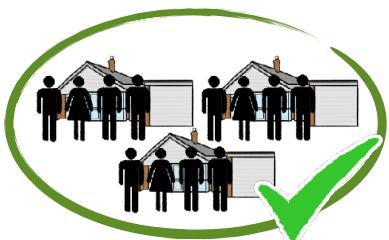


Children's choirs and other activities outside school can carry on.

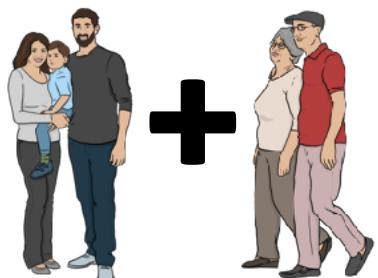
Childcare



During the Christmas period, nurseries and childminders should follow the same rules as before.



Children can be part of a Christmas bubble on Christmas Day, 25 December.

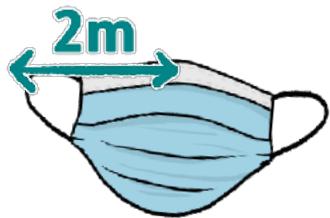


A **childcare bubble** is where your household joins with 1 other household to look after a child or children aged 13 or under.

Visiting people in care homes



You can carry on visiting people in care homes.



You should stay 2 metres apart and wear a face covering.



You may be asked to take a test to see if you have COVID-19.



If you don't have COVID-19, you may be able to get close to and touch the person you are visiting.

Travel within the UK



If you are in tiers 1, 2 or 3, you can travel to meet other households in your Christmas bubble on Christmas Day, 25 December.

You cannot meet another household if you live in tier 4.



You should only travel on Christmas Day, 25 December.



When you are travelling you should:

- avoid the busiest routes and the busiest times



- try not to stop on the journey



- only share a car with people who are in your household or bubble



- keep your distance from other people



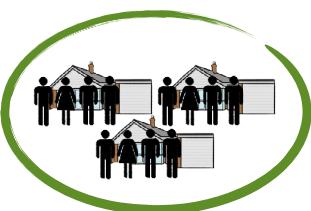
- wash your hands regularly



- wear a face covering on public transport.



You can stay in a hotel or bed and breakfast as long as you are:



- on your own, or
- with people in your household or bubble.



You can stay in a rented house or flat.

Travel abroad



You can travel abroad if you are in tiers 1 and 2.



If you are in tier 3, you should not leave your tier except for work, school or to care for someone.

If you are in tier 4, you can only leave your tier and travel abroad for things like work, school or to care for someone.



There have been rules about coming back from certain countries where you have to stay indoors, away from others for 14 days.



New rule from Tuesday, 15 December

From Tuesday, 15 December you will be offered a test for COVID-19 after staying indoors for 5 days.



If the test shows you do not have COVID-19, you won't have to stay indoors.

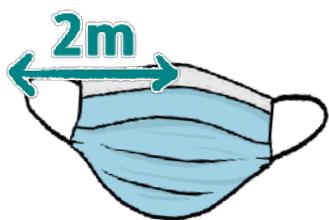
Volunteering



Volunteers can carry on helping people over the Christmas period.



If you can, you should volunteer from home.



If you can't, you should keep 2 metres away from people and wear a face covering.

Weddings, civil partnerships and funerals



The rules for weddings, civil partnerships and funerals will depend on which tier you are in.



You can have:

- 15 people at a wedding or civil partnership ceremony in tiers 1, 2 and 3.

If you are in Tier 4, you can have up to 6 people at a wedding or civil partnership ceremony.



- 30 people at a funeral



- 15 people together after a funeral. If you are in tier 4, you can have 6 people together after a funeral.



In tiers 1 and 2 you can have a sit down meal after a wedding. You should keep 2 metres away from other people.



The meal should not be in someone's home.



If you are in tier 3 or 4, you must not have a meal together after the wedding.

For more information



If you need more information, go to:
www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period