



Cabinet Office

COVID-19 Winter Plan



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Introduction



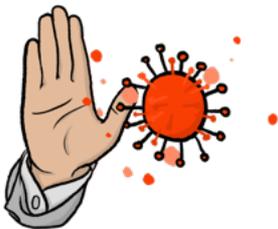
This winter, we are all having to follow certain rules to stay safe from **COVID-19**.



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



This information explains the Government's plan for England this winter.



The Government wants to:

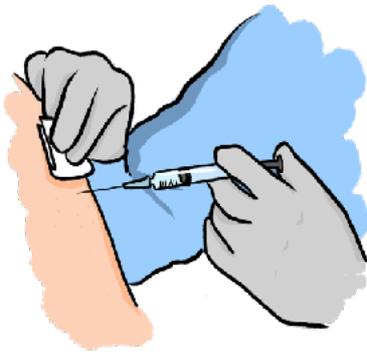
- stop COVID-19 from spreading
- find new ways to manage COVID-19 so we can all get back to normal life as soon as possible
- keep as many people and services working as possible, especially nurseries, schools, colleges and universities.



How we get back to normal life



Over the coming months we hope we will have new ways to slow the spread of COVID-19.



We hope that we will have a **vaccine** and new treatments which will control COVID-19.



A **vaccine** is an injection that helps to stop you catching a certain illness.



We hope that by the spring 2021 we can start to get back to normal life.

Vaccines



Doctors are working to make new vaccines that should stop people catching COVID-19.

These vaccines are being tested and checked.



We will only use a vaccine if we know that it has been properly checked and we are certain it works well and is safe.

As soon as we know it is safe, we plan to start giving the vaccine to people all around the UK.



When you have had the vaccine, you should be safe to mix with other people.



When a lot of people have had the vaccine, COVID-19 should stop spreading around the country. We can get back to normal life.



It is important to be patient because it will take time to give everyone the vaccine.



Treatment

Doctors have been finding ways to treat people who have become ill from COVID-19.



These treatments are helping people who are seriously ill from COVID-19, to get better.



Doctors will carry on looking for better treatment.



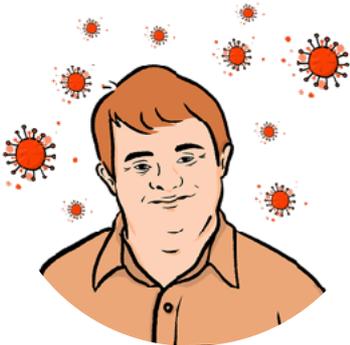
Some people will not be able to have a vaccine. We will need good treatments to help them get better if they catch COVID-19.



Community testing

Community testing is where we test everyone in a local area, every week.

Community testing finds people who have got COVID-19 but do not feel ill.



These people don't know they have it.

They don't know they are spreading the illness.



We are finding these people through community testing.

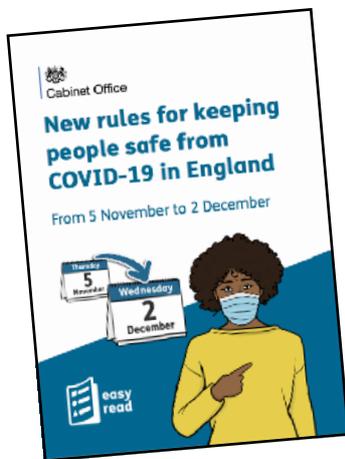


When we find them, we will tell them to stay inside and stop spreading the illness.

In the meantime



In the meantime, through the winter, we have to be careful and stay away from other people.



End of the national restrictions

National restrictions are rules that everyone in England has had to follow since 5 November.



Many businesses have been closed. People have had to stay at home.



On Wednesday, 2 December the national restrictions will end.



3 tiers

From Wednesday, 2 December each area of the country will be put into 1 of 3 **tiers**.

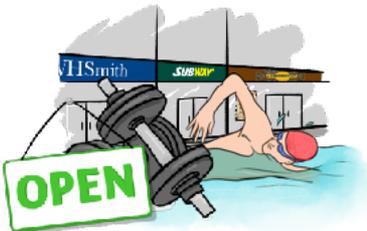
A **tier** is a level. Different rules apply to each of the 3 tiers.

The 3 tiers will slow the spread of COVID-19.



In all tiers:

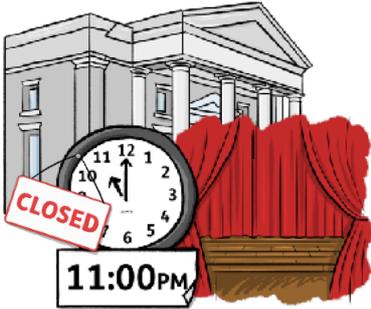
- you can travel to places that are open
- shops, gyms, and leisure centres can reopen
- religious services, weddings and outdoor sports can go ahead
- you can meet in groups of 6 outdoors.





In tier 1:

- pubs and restaurants can open for table service only. They must stop taking orders at 10pm and close by 11pm



- cinemas, theatres, concert halls and museums can open, but must close at 11pm



- a certain number of people can go to outdoor shows and sports events



- you can take part in sports and exercise classes



- you can travel outside your local area.



Tier 2 is similar to tier 1 except:

- pubs and restaurants can only serve alcohol with a meal at a table. They must stop taking orders at 10pm and close by 11pm.



In tier 3:

- pubs and restaurants must close. They can run a takeaway service



- hotels, bed and breakfast and campsites must close



- indoor entertainment and tourist attractions must close



- people must not go to outdoor shows or sports events.



The Government will run community testing in tier 3 areas.



The rules for tier 3 and the community testing will slow the spread of COVID-19 in these areas.

Christmas



Over the Christmas period people can meet up with each other more.



Religious services will be allowed.



You should be careful to keep your friends and family safe.



You should be especially careful with people who are likely to be very ill if they catch COVID-19.



You should:

- get a test if you think you may have COVID-19



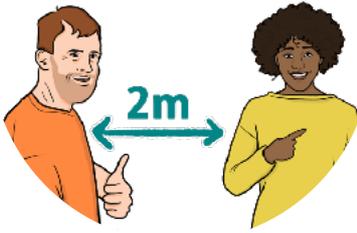
- keep away from other people if you have had a test which says you have the illness



- keep yourself safe by:
 - washing your hands often and for 20 seconds



- wearing a face covering when you are with people you don't live with



- keeping 2 metres apart from people you don't live with



- making sure there is plenty of fresh air indoors.

For more information



If you need more information please go to:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus