

Communication from Deafblind Scotland during the COVID-19 Pandemic

17 November 2020

The Scottish Government has announced changes to the COVID protection levels in Scotland, these will help tackle the spread of COVID-19.

Many council areas in the west of Scotland have moved into the highest level 4 restrictions.

These stricter rules now, mean that we can hope to meet with close family and friends, in a controlled way, during Christmas.

Good news that a vaccine has been found and will hopefully be available for those most at risk by the end of this year or early next.

Here are the levels that each Local Authority has been placed in. These changes start on Friday 20 November from 6pm.

Council areas in Level 1: Orkney, Shetland, Western Isles, Moray & Highlands

People in Moray and the Highlands are not to visit inside other people's houses.

However, for all areas in level one, it will be permissible from Thursday to meet outdoors with up to eight people from a maximum of three households.

Council areas in Level 2: Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Borders, Dumfries & Galloway, Argyll & Bute, East Lothian and Midlothian

Council areas in Level 3: Falkirk, City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, Dundee, Fife, Perth & Kinross, Angus.

Council areas in Level 4, this will be for 3 weeks until 11 December:

Glasgow, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, Stirling, West Lothian

You can use the online postcode checker, to find your local COVID protection level:

www.gov.scot/check-local-covid-level/

Currently, we are all asked not to meet anyone from other household in your home

socially, unless they are in your extended household. You can go into someone's house to provide essential care and support. Informal childcare is allowed i.e. grandparents providing childcare.

Here is a reminder of the 5 levels in Scotland:

Level 0 – Nearly Normal

Indoor meetings allowed, a maximum of 8 people from 3 households.

15 people from 5 households can meet outdoors.

Level 1 – Medium

Currently no indoor socialising is allowed. However, this may change to allow 6 people from 2 households to meet indoors and outdoors.

Level 2 – High

No indoor meeting with other households.

6 people from 2 households can meet outdoors and in hospitality settings.

Pubs, bars and restaurants permitted to sell alcohol indoors only with a main meal – and only until 8pm.

Level 3 – Very High

No indoor meeting with other households.

6 people from 2 households can meet outdoors and in hospitality settings.

No non-essential travel into or out of the level 3 area.

Cafes, pubs and restaurants allowed to open until 6pm to serve food, no alcohol sales.

Level 4 – Lockdown

No indoor meeting with other households.

6 people from 2 households can meet outdoors.

No non-essential travel into or out of the level 4 area.

Closer to a full lockdown of the type the UK went into at the end of March, with non-essential shops, hospitality and gyms being forced to close.

Some outdoor meeting still allowed.

Schools will stay open.

More information is available on the Scottish Government website:

www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19

Deafblind Scotland is here to help

You can continue to contact Deafblind Scotland for support and advice.

Phone: **0141 777 7774**

Text: **07715 421 377**

Email: **info@dbscotland.org.uk**