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# Nicola Sturgeon: 'Buck stops with me' on Scottish Covid tiers

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| Covid in Scotland: FM wants to avoid Manchester lockdown situation

**Nicola Sturgeon has insisted she will have the final say on local Covid-19 restrictions in different parts of Scotland, saying "the buck stops here".**

The first minister said: "I believe it's really important that the buck for these difficult decisions stops here, with me and government.

"We are asking people to do extraordinary things right now, and it's not fair for me and the government to try to offload those onto other people, be it local authorities or health boards.

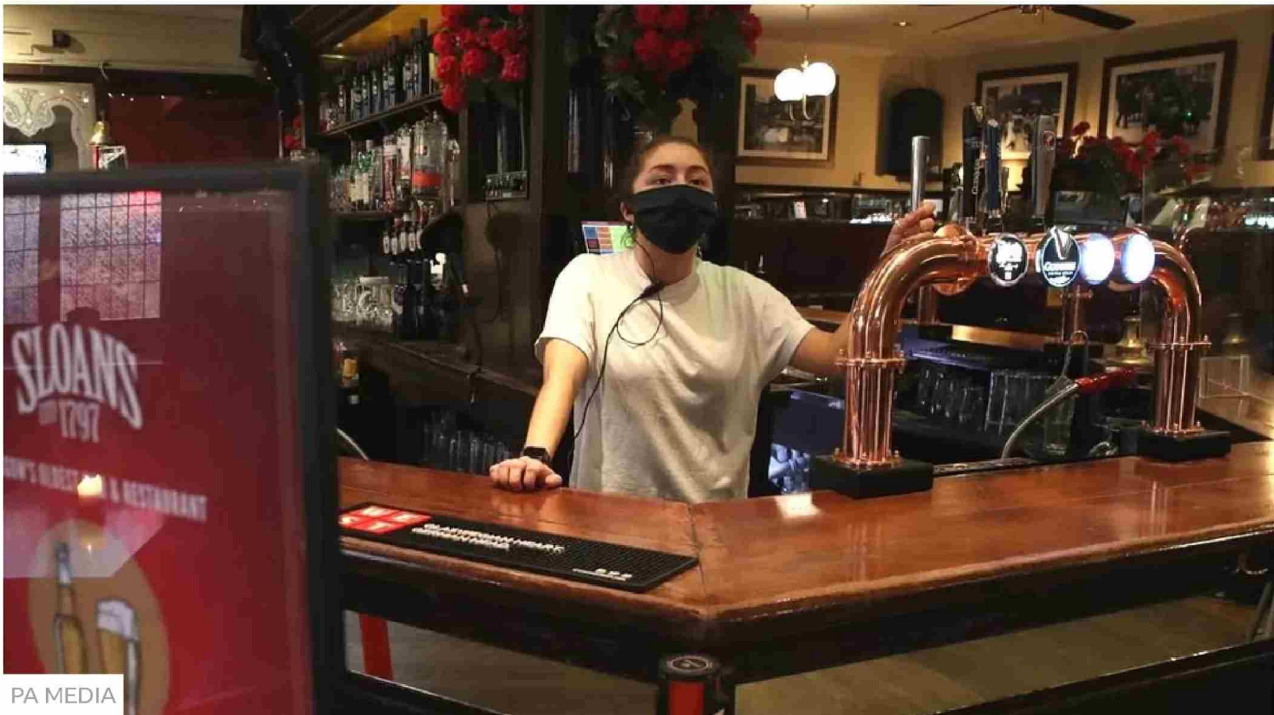
"We have to consult and be as collaborative as possible - we will absolutely be engaging with local authorities. And as we take decisions about which levels apply in which parts of the country we will want that to be collaborative.

"But ultimately we have to be able to take the decisions."

Ms Sturgeon said her government was "not in a position to get into standoffs over money", stressing the "finite resources" available to her.

She said: "What we are trying to do is give as much clarity and certainty as we can, have as much collaboration and discussion with those that need to be involved in these decisions as we can, not shy away from responsibility and ultimately me bearing the accountability for these decisions, and retaining a degree of flexibility in the face of an infectious virus.

"That is the balance we are trying to strike."



| Pubs in Scotland's central belt have been shut down by the current set of short-term restrictions

At her daily coronavirus briefing, Ms Sturgeon also hinted that **the current short-term restrictions** on bars and restaurants - which are chiefly focused on the central belt - could be extended for another week until the multi-tier system has been signed off by MSPs.