

Home | Israel-Gaza war | Cost of Living | War in Ukraine | Climate | UK | World | More

Business | Politics | Culture

Scotland | Scotland Politics | Scotland Business | Edinburgh, Fife & East | Glasgow & West |

Highlands & Islands | NE, Orkney & Shetland | South | Tayside & Central | Alba | Local News

Covid in Scotland: New guidance for shops and hospitality venues

🕒 16 December 2021

Coronavirus



GETTY IMAGES

| Physical distancing will be reintroduced to shops and supermarkets

The Scottish government has published new guidance for shops, hospitality venues and other businesses in a bid to stem the transmission of Covid.

The details set out legal restrictions - but mostly advice - which come into force at 00:01 on Friday.

They include the greater physical distancing and one-way entrances and exits to shops and supermarkets.

In pubs, the guidance stops short of making table service mandatory, but does say it is "strongly encouraged".

However, what it calls "major life events" such as weddings and funerals are allowed to carry on without additional restrictions.

- Hospitality 'takes £1bn hit' on Christmas parties
- Covid rules: What is advice and what is the law?
- Why doesn't Scotland have tougher Covid measures?

Nicola Sturgeon announced the publication of the guidance during First Minister's Questions at Holyrood.

The Scottish government had previously said it would provide £100m of funding to help firms in hospitality and food supply chains which have been hit by advice to cancel work Christmas parties.

Ms Sturgeon said she was "acutely aware of and deeply concerned" about the impact of the advice on businesses.

The new guidance is for all businesses and workplaces and provides "advice on measures that you should take to reduce risk and create a safe environment for customers and staff".

For **retail, shops and shopping centres**, it says enhanced mitigations should be put in place, such as:

- Manage the inflow/outflow of premises through one-way systems and/or traffic lights systems
- Wherever possible, put in place separate entrance and exits
- Use public address systems, signs, floor markings and queue management systems to help people keep a safe distance from others
- Use screens to create a physical barrier between people at till points and self-service checkouts.

Queuing inside premises "should be avoided where possible". Where it is not possible, numbering systems or queue marshals should be used.



GETTY IMAGES

| Table service in bars or ordering by using apps is not mandatory

For **pubs, restaurants and hospitality venues**, the government says "it is for each premises to determine what is practical and operationally possible for their setting in what is a diverse sector".

The document says there should be voluntary limits on maximum capacity "where appropriate".

The guidance also encourages the use of apps for ordering and electronic ticketing.

While table service is not mandatory in hospitality settings, businesses are urged to use it to reduce the amount of people coming into contact with each other.

The use of screens between tables and at service points "should also be considered".

'Challenging period'

The government publication says mandatory protective measures will be reviewed on a three-weekly basis to ensure they remain "proportionate".

It adds: "These guidance points are not exhaustive but are suggested to help operators manage risk and understand what may be considered a reasonable measure."

Scotland's Finance Secretary Kate Forbes said the government had worked "extremely quickly" to get the revised guidance in place.

She said: "It is crucial that everyone follows this guidance to support businesses to keep their premises safe and prevent transmission of Omicron, especially as we ramp up booster vaccinations.

"I am also making a plea to be considerate to staff who are doing their best during this challenging period."

More about coronavirus



- RULES: [What are the restrictions in Scotland?](#)
- LOCKDOWN: [Six months that changed our lives](#)
- CASES: [Where are the latest cases in Scotland?](#)
- NUMBERS: [Four key figures to watch out for](#)

Related Topics

[Omicron variant](#)[Scotland business](#)[Coronavirus](#)

Related Internet Links

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)- safer businesses and workplaces - gov.scot](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites.

Top Stories

Greece denies Elgin Marbles promise as row deepens

31 minutes ago

 LIVE More hostages to be freed as Gaza truce extended for 48 hours

Greed prevented Wilko rescue deal, claims HMV boss

1 hour ago

Features



How Hamas built a force to attack Israel on 7 October



Watch: Released 12-year-old hostage hugs mum



Chris Mason: Sculptures row about politics as much as history



Ninety-eight trees and a gingerbread White House



The English town with a curious Canadian corner



When sea levels rise, so does your rent



How can we stop children vaping?



The T-shirt chewing enzyme ready to tackle plastic waste



Watch: Huge waves hit Russian coast in Winter storms

Elsewhere on the BBC



A compelling journey through the craziest crimes...



A Dublin crime family face a gangland war



The pictures might be lost in time, but the sound lives on!

The world's most jaw-dropping crime stories with Laura Whitmore and Iain Stirling

Sounds

Outnumbered and outgunned - will bonds of blood win out?

iPlayer

A chance to hear three of Doctor Who's earliest adventures in audio form

Sounds



A concert you'll never forget...

Take That perform a special gig filled with tracks from their new album, This Life, and their biggest hits too!

Sounds

Most Read

1 Man admits killing three in Nottingham attacks

2 Greece denies Elgin Marbles promise as row deepens

3 Wilko rescue failed due to greed, claims HMV boss

4 Tiffany Haddish to get help after arrest

5 Nurses react with fury over doctor pay offer

6 Road has eight speed changes after switch to 20mph

7 Royal book is more like Action Replay than Endgame

8 Toxic gas putting millions at risk in Middle East

9 Groundbreaking green-fuelled flight to take off

10 The English town with a curious Canadian corner

BBC News Services

 On your mobile

 On smart speakers

 Get news alerts

 Contact BBC News

Doctor Who



Choose your own intergalactic adventure!

[CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE](#)



The home of all things Doctor Who

[DOCTOR WHO AT THE BBC](#)



Going behind the scenes...

[▶ DOCTOR WHO: UNLEASHED](#)



Watch the first episode now!

[▶ THE STAR BEAST](#)

Home	Weather	CBBC	Bitesize	Local
News	iPlayer	CBeebies	Arts	Three
Sport	Sounds	Food	Taster	

[Terms of Use](#) [About the BBC](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Cookies](#) [Accessibility Help](#) [Parental Guidance](#)

[Contact the BBC](#) [Make an editorial complaint](#) [Get Personalised Newsletters](#)

Why you can trust the BBC

© 2023 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. [Read about our approach to external linking.](#)