

were previously placed in tier 3, sales reduced by 22% in businesses that remained open. A BBPA survey estimated that nationally 57% of pubs could not open viably with this measure in place. The previous tier 2 was only able to reduce growth by a small amount, with SAGE observing that “in most cases moving from tier 1 to tier 2 would slow growth rather than reverse it”<sup>3</sup>, and SPI-M-O estimating a modest 10% reduction in R. A stronger tier 2 would seek to prevent or delay areas being escalated into tier 3.

- c. **Local Covid Alert Level 3 (Very High)** should be strengthened by including the closure of hospitality (other than takeaway or delivery), indoor entertainment, personal care and accommodation. This would be a standardised tier, imposed rather than negotiated, to ensure optimal effect and rapid deployment. The aim of this tier would be to halt growth and drive down cases where incidence is growing, to avoid the need for strong restrictions to remain in place indefinitely. To achieve this, the proposal goes beyond the baseline of the previous tier 3, which itself was not enough to get R below 1. Nonetheless, this tier would be less restrictive than the current national restrictions, and would see the opening of: non-essential retail; gyms and indoor leisure (for individual use only); outdoor leisure and sports courts; and places of worship. People would also be able to meet up to six people in outdoor public spaces, which they cannot currently do. We will also target local and regional mass testing at tier 3 areas. This gives tier 3 areas a further opportunity to drive down prevalence quickly if local leaders work with us to get high take up of testing and isolation where individuals test positive (see paragraph 20).

- 10. Areas will be under constant review, and where they see a dramatic growth they will be rapidly escalated into a higher tier. We should expect areas to remain in their 2 December tier until after Christmas and, thereafter, to be reviewed. In 2021, tiers should then be reviewed for a minimum of 28 days before any de-escalation to a lower tier, in order for the measures to have

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<sup>3</sup> SAGE 67 Minutes, 12th November 2020.