



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

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The Rt Hon Michael Gove
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
And Minister for the Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
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15 September 2020

Dear Michael,

Following the emergency Local Action Committee GOLD this morning, and a thorough review of the epidemiology, I am recommending adding the North East (Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and County Durham) to the Watchlist as an area of National Intervention.

The specific interventions recommended are below (and also summarised at Annex A):

- Making regulations to enforce table service only in hospitality (restaurants and bars - including in hotels and members' clubs - pubs, social clubs, casinos and cafes - excluding cafes or canteens at workplaces, hospitals, care homes, schools, prisons, establishments intended for the use of military personnel and for providing food or drink to the homeless).
- Making regulations to close certain venues (restaurants, including hotel dining rooms and members' clubs; cafes (not including cafes or canteens at workplaces, hospitals, care homes, schools, prisons, establishments intended for the use of naval, military or air force purposes and for providing food or drink to the homeless); bars including bars in hotels or members' clubs; pubs; social clubs; cinemas; theatres; casinos; amusement arcades or other indoor leisure centres or facilities; fixed funfairs (indoors or outdoors), theme parks and adventure parks and activities) from 2200 – 0500.
- Making regulations to restrict inter-household mixing in private dwellings (including gardens).

I intend for these regulations to come into force ahead of the weekend (0001 Friday 18 September 2020).

In addition, I recommend that the following changes are made to guidance locally:

- Restrict care home and hospital visits to essential visits only.