

COVID: NEXT STEPS FOR ALERT LEVELS

WHERE ARE WE NOW

- **We have a clear plan.** 89 LAs now in Level 2 and 34 in Level 3 since you announced Local Covid Alert Levels on 12 October. 17.2m people live in Level 2 areas (33% of England and 41% of the English economy). Just over 10m people live in Level 3 areas (19% of England and 15% of the English economy).
- **We are moving more areas into Level 3.** Warrington will move on Tuesday. We are discussing Level 3 moves with Nottingham and NE (Tyneside and Teeside). More will follow.

THERE ARE CHOICES IN THE COMING WEEKS

- **There is considerable uncertainty but cases continue to rise.** The picture is deteriorating everywhere. We do not yet know how effective Level 2 and 3 will be. More data will come through in the next 2-4 weeks. Current approach is highly unlikely to drive R below 1 nationwide.
- **We need to consider where we want to be at Christmas and Spring:** Christmas day is less than 9 weeks away - more confidence that we can loosen likely to require further action now and/or afterwards to get to March.

WE SHOULD CLARIFY AND STRENGTHEN OUR CURRENT APPROACH

Improve the basics	Move areas through levels more quickly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self isolation: review 14 day period and drive up compliance • Protect the most vulnerable including care homes • Compliance <u>and</u> enforcement: need to change behaviours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precedent and trajectory, suggest <u>all</u> regions would be in Level 2 by late Nov and in Level 3 by 9 Dec. • We could set lower thresholds and move regions into Levels 2 / 3 faster.

AND THERE ARE OPTIONS TO GO FURTHER

- We may want or need to go further to allow loosening at Christmas, if rates rise faster or if the current Levels 2/3 do not drive down transmission.
- Going further would mean considering more expansive closures, revisiting the approach on schools, universities or tougher travel restrictions.
- Stronger restrictions could be expressed as a tougher Level 3.

NEXT STEPS

1. You will get detailed advice at the end of the week on (a) options on further action (b) Christmas
2. You should discuss with Chancellor and at a COVID S over the next week