

NEWS RELEASE



19 December 2020

Bracknell Forest tier 4 restrictions and Christmas bubbles

Bracknell Forest residents must stay at home and stick to new tier 4 restrictions from Sunday, 20 December and must not form Christmas bubbles.

New rules were [announced by the Government](#) on Saturday, 19 December, which places the borough in tier 4 from midnight.

Residents must stay at home from 00.01am on Sunday, apart from limited exemptions set out in law. People must work from home but can travel to work if this is not possible, for example in construction or manufacturing.

In addition to the tier 3 restrictions introduced earlier this week, non-essential retail, indoor entertainment, indoor gyms and leisure facilities, and personal care services (like hairdressers and beauty salons) must close. As such, Bracknell Leisure Centre will be closed from tomorrow and Coral Reef will remain closed. Downshire Golf Course will be open for use of the green only and in line with household mixing/ outdoor exercise rules. Libraries will be closed to reduce the risk of any spread but online services will remain open.

The borough's parks and open spaces will remain open for exercise. Residents should only exercise locally with their own household/ support bubble. However, you can meet outside in a public place with one other person.

At The Look Out, the play area will remain [bookable](#) and the coffee shop will remain open for takeaways only. Swinley Bike Hub and Go Ape are closed. Lapland UK will also be closed.

The Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Longshot Lane will also remain open for [bookings](#) as usual.

You must only travel for work, education or other legally permitted reasons. If you must travel you should stay local and reduce the number of journeys you make. You must not leave a tier 4 area or stay overnight away from home. Residents from tier 1-3 should not enter tier 4 areas (this includes Swinley Forest in Bracknell Forest). Residents cannot travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

Communal worship can continue to take place in tier 4 but you should not interact with anyone outside your household/ support bubble.

Residents in Bracknell Forest must not form or join a Christmas bubble. The rules previously outlined for 23-27 December no longer apply – residents can celebrate Christmas with their household/ [support bubble](#) only.

Cllr Paul Bettison OBE, Leader of Bracknell Forest Council, said:

“I know these new restrictions may be unwelcome news for our residents, many of whom have been looking forward to celebrating Christmas with their families. However, the virus is spreading at an alarming rate, so we need to stick to these tougher restrictions in order to protect ourselves, protect our loved ones and protect our borough. While not all of us will suffer from the serious harm that COVID-19 can cause, we all need to stop and think about how we behave and what part we play in stopping the spread of this dreadful infection to those for whom it can have devastating consequences.

“Please do stick to the rules which are a legal requirement. If you do need to go out please make sure you carefully follow the [hands, face, space](#) rules. Please also make sure you do not join or form a Christmas bubble, however disappointing that may be, as we need to keep everyone as safe as possible.”