Local lockdowns – what does this mean for you?

 Introduction

In an effort to keep the economy on a path to recovery, the Government is now taking an approach whereby they respond to local spikes in the Coronavirus infection rate by issuing new locally specific guidance.

Government guidance is often issued quickly and without warning. In this bulletin, we’ll keep you up-to-date with which areas are affected and any practical tips for running your business and reassuring your staff.

# Lockdown areas

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| Area | Lockdown announced | Latest information |
| Leicester, Charnwood, Blaby, Oadby & Wigston | 29 June | As of 18 July, lockdown lifted in Charnwood & BlabyAs of 30 July, lockdown lifted in Oadby & Wigston From 3 August, restaurants, cafes, bars, hairdressers can reopen in Leicester. But amenities like gyms and pools remain closed, and people cannot meet indoors with other households.[Government guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/leicester-lockdown-what-you-can-and-cannot-do) for Leicester and the surrounding area explains exactly what is permissible. |
| Greater ManchesterEast LancashireWest Yorkshire | 31 July | The restrictions here include visits indoors between households that do not live together.The guidance has now been updated to **confirm** that offices and workplaces should continue as before – i.e. following social distancing and careful hygiene measures – and can remain open. It is worth noting that government guidance discourages sharing car travel with people from outside of your own household.The latest government guidance for this lockdown can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-of-england-local-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do). |

# Practical tips to follow in case you are affected by a local lockdown

## Keep yourself and your colleagues updated

Follow the announcements on gov.uk for the latest information – the links above take you to the gov.uk pages for your area. You can also follow announcements on social media – especially Twitter, which tend to be the quickest source of information. The Secretary of State for Health, Matt Hancock (@MattHancock), announced the latest lockdown this way.

We will also update this document for REC members as more information becomes available.

## End every working day as if you may have to work from home the next day

Ask your colleagues to take anything they may need to work from home with them when they leave the office each night, for instance laptops.

Put all desk phones on divert to a mobile phone.

Have a contingency plan to divert switchboards or the main office number remotely if required.

## Try to plan most of your meetings to be virtual so that they will not be disrupted by a sudden local lockdown

We’re all far better at using MS Teams, Zoom and Skype now. So unless it is really necessary to have a face to face meeting (and we know sometimes it really is), plan business meetings and events, including with clients and candidates, to be virtual unless really necessary.

## Encourage everyone in the business to follow social distancing and good hygiene practices

We’re all used to this drill by now so we won’t state the obvious. The [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing) website updates their guidance regularly.