

An open letter to residents, businesses and partners across the Caerphilly county borough:



Dear all,

We write to you once again to provide an update on the ongoing coronavirus restrictions within the Caerphilly county borough.

When these restrictions were introduced by Welsh Government on Tuesday 8th September, it was agreed that they would be reviewed after two weeks and then weekly thereafter, as appropriate.

As you know, it has been just over two weeks since the start of our local lockdown and Welsh Government has reviewed the position with us. We collectively agreed, that whilst there are early promising signs of improvement, it is a little too early to consider any relaxation of the regulations. As such the additional measures will remain in place for at least the next 7 days.

An announcement is due to be made by Welsh Government Ministers imminently, confirming this position so please watch the Welsh Government briefings or visit the CCBC website for the latest update:

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Coronavirus

We continue to work very closely with our key partners to provide Ministers with the latest data in terms of infection rates, the effectiveness of the measures and the compliance of residents and businesses across the county borough.

We would again like to thank each and every one of you for continuing to adhere to these guidelines. We know it hasn't been easy. However, the data shows that the picture is looking positive and the infection rate is falling. It is clear therefore, that you are making a real difference. It is so pleasing to see the community spirit, strength and resilience of our people really shining through.

You will be aware that Caerphilly was the first area in Wales to have localised restrictions imposed, but since then, five other neighbouring areas have also had 'local lockdowns' due to similar concerns about the increase in their infection rates. Additionally, Wales-wide restrictions are now also in place in response to concerns about the increasing rate of spread of the virus nationally.

We understand that these different layers of restrictions can sometimes cause confusion and mixed messages, so we thought it important to remind everyone of our current rules so that we all clearly understand what is required of us here in the Caerphilly county borough.

The restrictions apply to everyone living or working in the area and to people who may want to visit:

- **People will not be allowed to enter or leave the Caerphilly County Borough Council area without a reasonable excuse (details of these can be found on the CCBC website page listed above).**
- **Everyone over 11 will be required to wear face coverings in indoor places, which are open to the public, such as shops, as well as on public transport. (There are some limited exemptions for people with disabilities and medical conditions - these are the same as for public transport).**
- **People will only be able to meet outdoors for the time being. People will not be able to meet members of their extended household indoors or form an extended household (sometimes known as a "bubble").**

This means meeting indoors (in people's houses, in a pub or elsewhere) with anyone you don't live with is not allowed at the moment unless you have a good reason, such as providing care to a vulnerable person.

Additionally, hospitality businesses in Wales will close at 10pm and provide table service only. All off-licences, including supermarkets, will also stop selling alcohol at 10pm.

Once again, we offer our sincere thanks to you, for your individual and collective actions. It really is making a difference. Let's keep our collective actions going, as working hand-in-hand together we can control the spread of this terrible virus and keep our beautiful county borough safe.

Thank you.



Cllr Philippa Marsden
Leader of Council



Christina Harrhy
Chief Executive