

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Licensing & Regulatory Committee

27 November 2020

TITLE:	COVID-19 Update
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Bowen - Portfolio Holder for Communities
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alicia Patterson - Head of Environmental Health
WARDS INVOLVED:	All Wards

Appendix 1 – LA Covid 19 Checklist (Tier 1)

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 The report provides members of the Committee with an update regarding the relevant Coronavirus legislation and the changing nature of this since the outbreak of the pandemic.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the report.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is an ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by the transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in January 2020 and a pandemic in March 2020.
- 3.2 As of 27 October 2020, more than 43.5 million cases have been confirmed, with more than 1.15 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- 3.3 COVID-19 spreads most often when people are physically close and it spreads very easily and sustainably through the air, primarily via small droplets or aerosols, as an infected person breathes, coughs, sneezes, sings, or speaks.

- 3.4 Airborne transmission from aerosol formation is suspected to be the main mode of transmission. It can spread from an infected person for up to two days before they display symptoms, and from people who are asymptomatic. People remain infectious for seven to twelve days in moderate cases, and up to two weeks in severe cases.
- 3.5 Common symptoms include fever, cough, fatigue, breathing difficulties, and loss of smell and taste. Complications may include pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The incubation period is typically around five days but may range from one to 14 days.
- 3.6 Recommended preventive measures include hand washing, covering one's mouth when sneezing or coughing, social distancing, wearing a face mask in public, ventilation and air-filtering, disinfecting surfaces, and monitoring and self-isolation for people exposed or symptomatic.
- 3.7 In March 2020, emergency primary legislation known as the Coronavirus Act 2020 was introduced by the government to help the country cope with the demands caused by the coronavirus outbreak.
- 3.8 On 21st March 2020 the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020 came into legal effect at 2pm, enforcing the closure in England of businesses selling food and drink for consumption on the premises, as well as a range of other businesses such as nightclubs and indoor leisure centres where a high risk of infection could be expected.
- 3.9 On 26th March 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 (the 'Lockdown Regulations') came into effect, significantly extending the range of businesses that were required by law to close with immediate effect including all retail businesses not on an approved list. These regulations also include significant restrictions on freedom of movement, including the provision that: "no person may leave the place where they are living without reasonable excuse".
- 3.10 The government announced that some self-employed will be paid 80% of profits, up to £2,500 a month, to help them cope during the economic crisis triggered by COVID-19.
- 3.11 On 11th May 2020, the UK government published a 50-page document setting out further details of the phases for lifting the lockdown restrictions.
- 3.12 On 13th May 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2020 came into effect, allowing the re-opening of garden centres, sports courts and recycling centres. In addition to outdoor exercise, open-air recreation was also permitted with no more than one member of another household.
- 3.13 On 1st June 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2020 came into effect, allowing the re-opening of car and caravan showrooms, outdoor sports amenities and outdoor non-food markets. The prohibitions on leaving home were replaced by a

prohibition on staying overnight away from home, with certain specific exceptions. Gatherings of people from more than one household were limited to six people outdoors and were prohibited entirely indoors.

- 3.14 On 15th June 2020, the remainder of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2020 came into effect, allowing the general re-opening of retail shops and public-facing businesses apart from those that are on a list of specific exclusions such as restaurants, bars, pubs, nightclubs, most cinemas, theatres, museums, hairdressers, indoor sports and leisure facilities. Outdoor animal-related attractions such as farms, zoos and safari parks also re-opened. Places of worship may again be used for private prayer (but not for communal worship). English libraries still had to remain closed.
- 3.15 On 4th July 2020, thousands of pubs, restaurants and hairdressers across England were given practical, clear steps to enable them to reopen safely over the coming weeks.
- 3.16 On 14th October 2020, the new three-tier system of Covid-19 restrictions were introduced, that saw every area of England classed as being on Medium, High or Very High alert. An overview of the Tier 1 restrictions and associated legislation is attached at Appendix 1. Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 31st October 2020 additional nationwide restrictions in England were introduced from 5th November 2020. Further legislation containing detailed provisions for individuals and businesses has been published.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 To help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work.

5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 There are no alternative options to consider.

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Web Links and Background Papers

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