



Updates on COVID 19 from the Council and local Councillors for January 4th

Prime Minister's announcement

Last night the Prime Minister outlined that England will be subject to new national lockdown restrictions from midnight.

Measures similar to those introduced in March of last year will see all residents told to work from home unless they are a key worker or it is not possible for them to do so.

It also means schools will close for most pupils, although children of key-workers will still be able to attend (see below).

Wigan Borough was already subject to a Stay At Home message with the Tier 4 restrictions but tonight's update means England has moved away from the local system to these national restrictions.

Residents will only be permitted to leave home for specific reasons as outlined in the guidance, such as shopping for necessities, for exercise once per day or for medical or childcare purposes. Further information is available on the link below.

Clinically vulnerable residents will again be asked to shield themselves.

In light of this, the rising levels of infection (Wigan Borough is now at a rate of 309.4 per 100,000 of population) and the new variant of Covid-19, it is crucial that we follow the public health guidelines to help prevent the virus spreading further.

[For full government guidance, click here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>



Impact on schools and education

The Prime Minister also announced that primary, secondary schools and colleges will close from today (Tuesday 4th) except for vulnerable children and children of key-workers.

Schools will be expected to provide remote learning options for pupils until at least the February half-term.

Early years settings such as nurseries will remain open.

Ministers will work on producing alternative arrangements for exams and assessments, GCSEs and A-Levels in particular, the Prime Minister added.

Bin collections

Eleven crews have been out today to catch up with the collections that couldn't take place last week due to the weather.

A small number of brown and blue bin collections remain outstanding after today's work and those should be picked up tomorrow afternoon, weather permitting.

Residents are advised to keep those bins out as usual until our crews get round to them.

I'm sure we can all agree that this has been a fantastic effort from our waste crews.



Best Wishes

Councillor Gena Merrett
Councillor Yvonne Klieve
Councillor Susan Gambles

Do you or anyone you know need help, advice or support?



***Yvonne, Susan, and Gena.
Councillors for Golborne and Lowton West***

We are not doing face to face surgeries during the pandemic but we are still here to help you.

**If you need advice, information, support or some help please contact us.
We post information every day on our Facebook Page [@GWLcouncillors](#).**

**You can send us a direct private message to the page.
Or contact us by email or phone to our contact addresses below.**

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