

I know that the Tier 4 announcement will have caused anxiety, frustration and sadness and that many of you will have been looking forward to seeing family and friends at Christmas. I share this disappointment and my thoughts are with you.

But, our Covid-19 rates are high and rising fast – we are at a tipping point in this pandemic and must all act now to protect our communities and our families.

With the new restriction in place, we cannot mix indoors with anyone not from our household – so we can no longer mix with anyone outside our own household at Christmas - although support bubbles will remain in place for those at particular risk of loneliness or isolation.

Other important changes are:

- Non-essential businesses will now close. This includes all non-essential retail, along with hairdressers, nail bars, indoor gyms and leisure facilities.
- You must stay at home, unless travelling to work, for education, for childcare or in an emergency.
- You can exercise outdoors and you can meet with one other person outdoors in an open public space.
- People will be advised not to travel from or into a tier four area. International travel is now banned unless for work purposes.

We need to do everything we can to stop the spread of the virus and to move Wokingham Borough out of the Tier 4 restrictions as soon as possible. But, we know there will be no relaxation on 30 December, so people will need to follow the rules as we enter the New Year.

We will keep you updated on any changes to our services and you can [sign up to receive all out Covid-19 updates direct to you inbox](#).

As we have throughout the pandemic, we will be here for you. We are determined that nobody in the borough will be left hungry or in need during this time and so please contact us if you are in need. The [One Front Door](#) that we run with Citizens' Advice is open for all those who need help at this time.

Please stay home and stay safe and we will get through this together.

John Halsall

Leader, Wokingham Borough Council