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| Please find below the latest information for Bolton businesses affected by the latest lockdown restrictions. If you would like to subscribe for future newsletters to gain information on the latest financial support and covid-19 guidance, you can sign up here [Business Bolton newsletter](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3JDB2P9XQhJTauMAKLQnb7h6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3D997982560c%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f).    |

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| Contents* [Latest Covid-19 advice for Bolton Businesses](#Latest_advice)
* [Businesses not currently registered to provide food](#registered)
* [Businesses that serve food (but not alcohol)](#Serving_food_and_drink_(not_alcohol))
* [Operating Restrictions and Guidance](#Operating)
* [Frequently Asked Questions](#FAQ)
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| Latest COVID-19 advice for Bolton businesses**Covid Alert Level – Tier 3 Very High**Due to the high levels of Coronavirus evident across Greater Manchester, Bolton has now been placed on the ‘Very High’ Covid alert level by the Government. This means that from **Friday 23rd October 2020**, pubs and bars must close unless they operate as a restaurant, which means serving substantial meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal. They may only serve alcohol as part of such a meal. **Other restricted businesses**The following businesses must also not operate: 1. nightclubs;
2. dance halls;
3. discotheques;
4. other premises which open at night and have a dance floor and provides music to dance to;
5. sexual entertainment venues;
6. hostess bars;
7. casinos;
8. betting shops and adult gaming centres;
9. soft play areas
10. bingo halls

A business or service does not fall within category (b), (c) or (d) if it ceases to provide music and dancing. In category (e) “sexual entertainment venue” has the meaning given in paragraph 2A of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982(1). In category (f) “hostess bar” has the meaning given by paragraph 3B of that Schedule. Therefore, your business may only continue to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises if – 1. the alcohol is only served for consumption on the premises as part of a ‘**table meal**’
2. the food and drink are ordered by, and served to, a customer who is seated on the premises, and
3. you take all reasonable steps to ensure that customer remains seated whilst consuming the food and drink on the premises.

A **“table meal”** is: * A meal that you’d expect to serve as a main midday or main evening meal (or as a main course at either such meal)
* A meal eaten by a person seated at a table, (or at a counter/or other structure functioning as a table where people are seated)

For the avoidance of doubt, alcohol can only be ordered if the customer is ordering or consuming a main meal. Whilst the Regulations do not address what a main meal is, it is our view that the meal must be something substantial, more than just a bar snack. Businesses should exercise judgement in line with the licensing objectives, around what is considered to be reasonable when alcohol is ordered and consumed during the relevant timeframe. Authorities will expect to see businesses ensure that customers do not attempt to undermine the purpose of the restrictions. Officers will work with venues on the ground to advice what would be considered appropriate in line with the regulations. Premises must also take all reasonable steps to ensure that the customer remains seated whilst consuming the food or drink on the premises.Alcohol sold by a hotel or other accommodation as part of room service is not to be treated as being sold for consumption on its premises The authority will expect businesses to ensure that customers do not undermine the purpose of the restrictions. **If your business is not currently registered with Environmental Health to provide food.** Therefore, if you want to introduce food preparation and provision, you need to contact Environmental Health to discuss your HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) plans plans and food safety controls.  Points to consider are: * You must register with Environmental Health at least 28 days before opening.  However, due to the current circumstances, if you intend to provide food, then you need to register as soon as possible.  You can do this [online](https://clicktime.symantec.com/39n8wcp2XTQdUomfE7KeqZt6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3D9f42cfb21c%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f)
* For further advice on setting up a food business please refer to the following [www.bolton.gov.uk/](https://clicktime.symantec.com/38TbmFLBA7KUS2gVumDd6ZC6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3D7365247469%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f)
* You will need a Food Safety Management System – The Food Standard Agency’s (FSA) Safer Food Better Business Catering Pack is recommended.
* Allergen management plans must be documented, implemented and all staff trained in how to deal with allergen queries.

Food Safety inspections will take place unannounced and an assessment will be made of hygiene practices, cleanliness, structure and management systems.A food hygiene rating will be issued and displayed on the FSA website.**If you serve food and drink (but not alcohol) for consumption on the premises** If you do not serve alcohol for consumption on the premises, you may continue to sell food or drink for consumption on the premises only if you take all reasonable steps to ensure that the customer remains seated whilst consuming the food or drink on the premises. Any queries can be sent to: [environmentalhealthcovidinbox@bolton.gov.uk](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3BQmczdQN3xVngKL6iY5y316H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3Dc00f1b34c7%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f)To find out more information please go to  [www.businessbolton.org/hospitality](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3YUFgzdjLfB5meLsT8jPxKB6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3Dc5ad1cac1d%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f)  |

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| ****Operating Restrictions and Guidance****In addition, the following Covid restrictions remain in place;* You must operate in a COVID-secure manner.
* Food and drink must be ordered from, and served at, a table, in both indoor and outdoor licensed premises.
* Take reasonable steps to ensure customers do not socialise with anybody they do not live with (or have formed a support bubble with), either inside the venue or in any outdoor area.
* Where premises are permitted to open, the 10pm curfew continues to have effect. Only a cinema, theatre or concert hall may operate at or after 10pm in order to conclude a performance which began before that time.
* Businesses selling food for consumption off the premises, can continue to do so after 10pm if this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-thru.  The customer must not enter your premises.
* You are required to collect customer, visitor and staff data to support NHS Test and Trace.  You also need to display the official NHS QR code poster so that customers can ‘check-in’ using this option.  [www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster](https://clicktime.symantec.com/393NqZbEvzNX7Zv5Lx14xVP6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3D9ac3b5ac76%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f)
* You must check that customers have used the QR code to check in. If they don’t use the QR code you must take the customers details, which should be kept for 21 days.
* You must carry out a Covid risk assessment in relation to measures you have in place to keep your staff safe. All staff need to read it and ensure they comply with it [www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/assets/docs/risk-assessment.pdf](https://clicktime.symantec.com/37eHeutjoShPSDAvy57MMhR6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3D58895dd266%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f)
* Staff must stay 2m apart and must wear face coverings.
* Customers must wear face coverings, except when seated at a table to eat and drink.  You must remind your customers to wear face coverings.
* [Signs advising customers](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3Nbj791LgwR1nQNtk7kP5Av6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3D7618c5dd80%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f) to wear face coverings must be placed in prominent positions throughout the premises.
* If your employees are required to [self-isolate](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3DcTrHCEbgy5PLoGTeuMTtn6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3Daa80d8c1c6%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f), you must not allow them to continue to work in any setting.

 Licensing and Environmental Health will be carrying out monitoring visits and whilst we recognise the implications and consequences of these restrictions on local businesses, those that fail to comply may face fines of up to **£10,000**, prosecution, or in some cases closure.   |

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| ****Frequently Asked Questions:******1. Is takeaway / outside catering permitted?**[Reg 15(1)(a)](https://clicktime.symantec.com/35EQiwaWiVGFizavny3r2dB6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3Db242af524b%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f) stipulates that a person responsible for carrying on a restricted business in the tier 3 area which serves alcohol for consumption on the premises may sell food or drink for consumption on the premises only if **the food or drink is ordered by, and served to, a customer who is seated on the premises.**From a tier 3 covid perspective, there is nothing stopping a business from utilising a third party to supply the food, however **customers must order the food and be served the food whilst seated on the premises, not bring it in themselves**.You must however follow the Environmental Health ‘repurposing’ advice given above.**2. Are breakfasts / brunches classed as a table meal?** Yes, if it’s a substantial meal, ordered from the premises and if consumed seated at a table.**3. Can I serve drinks before and / or after the meal?**  Reg 16(2) ‘Alcohol is only served for consumption on the premises as part of a table meal’.A drink whilst waiting for food is a normal part of a table meal, and finishing a drink after the meal would be reasonable however the continuous supply of alcohol in absence of food arriving or after meal we would suggest would no longer be deemed to form part of the table meal. **4. Who does liability lie with for any food hygiene and safety related issues, for example food poisoning, reaction to allergens?** Liability would lie initially with the pub/bar selling the food – however, the supplier of the food could also be guilty of an offence of supplying food to the pub/bar.   |

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| ****Useful Information***** Check the latest guidance for your business [working safely guidance](https://clicktime.symantec.com/371Hh6tSY3jDFmpGfsno2sd6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3D6237a767b5%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f) to stay Covid19 Secure, this includes guidance on face coverings and self isolation for staff.
* [#Openforbusiness](https://clicktime.symantec.com/36LywNEWwtD5YHZqEaWeSJx6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbusinessbolton.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dec283d09451697f8e04d1e978%26id%3D029449a61b%26e%3D3eeb7fa58f) - if you would like free promotional materials to support your business, including posters and floor stickers contact the team.
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