

Local COVID Alert Levels in England – 21/12/2020

The recent lockdown restrictions in England were eased on 2nd December 2020 and a new set of Alert Levels were put in place, and subsequently updated, to control the spread of the Covid 19 virus. These Alert Levels split the country into areas classified as Medium, High, Very High Risk and Stay at Home. They are generally referred to as Tier 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

They will affect many aspects of life including sport. Below is a translation of the Government guidance into the context of target shooting.

Outdoor Shooting

Outdoor Target Shooting in clubs is allowed across all Tiers/Alert Levels for everyone, providing social distancing remains in place and National and NSRA Guidance is followed to maintain a Covid Secure environment.

Indoor Shooting

Tier 1 – Medium Risk

In the Medium Risk areas, indoor shooting can carry on much in the same, regulated way as in months prior to the second lockdown. This means:

- Shooting indoors can continue following local and government guidelines along with the NSRA Guidance.
- Coached activity can continue
- Groups and squads can continue
- Coaching and training can continue
- New people can be introduced to the sport
- Elite shooters can continue training
- Under-18s and disabled people can continue shooting

Tier 2 High Risk

Shooting indoors can continue following local and government guidelines along with the NSRA Guidance so long as it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with or share a support bubble with. This means:

- Individual shooting only
- No groups or squads
- No coaching or training (unless by someone from the same support bubble)
- No introducing new members (unless by someone from the same support bubble) Elite shooters can continue training
- Elite shooters can continue training
- Under-18s and disabled people can continue shooting

Tier 3 Very High Risk

As shooting is an individual sport, the guidance is similar to that for Tier 2. Indoor shooting can continue if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with or share a support bubble with. This means:

- Individual shooting only
- No groups or squads
- No coaching or training (unless by someone from the same support bubble)
- No introducing new members (unless by someone from the same support bubble) No introducing new members (unless by someone from the same support bubble)
- Elite shooters can continue training
- Under-18s and disabled people can continue shooting

Tier 4 Stay at Home

Indoor shooting must not continue. Disabled people are included in this and cannot shoot indoors.

The only exemptions are:

- Elite shooters can continue training
- Children taking part in shooting as part of their education i.e. if shooting is part of school activities

Although this is general advice based on National guidance, Clubs also must be aware that, in these higher risk areas, there might be further local restrictions in place that will affect their ability to continue shooting.

Travelling to shoot

Travel is not banned but the government advises not to travel unless it is necessary.

For Tiers 1 to 3

If you are in a low Tier and the club is in a higher Tier, you can still go there if you wish but must follow ALL the higher Tier restrictions – not just at the range but at all times whilst in the area.

If you are in a higher Tier you can travel to a lower Tier Club but must take extra care not to socialise and behave as if you are in the higher Tier whilst you are there. For example, a Tier 2 person can attend a Tier 1 Club as an individual shooter but couldn't attend coaching or be inducted as a new member as that is not allowed in that Tier.

For Tier 4

Travel is not allowed unless for reasons given under exemption. One of these exemptions is to access places for outdoor exercise or sport and so **you may travel to the club to shoot outdoors within Tier 4.**

Travel either in or out of Tier 4 is not allowed except for reasons given under exemption. Exercise and sport are not under this exemption and so **you must not travel in to or out of Tier 4 area to go to a shooting club.**

The only exemption to this is for Elite shooters who are still allowed to travel if necessary.

General

We advise all clubs irrespective of the Tier they are in to:

- Find out the risk level of their area and revisit their Risk Assessments.
- Look at their systems and make absolutely sure that; in any event, those measures that are in place prevent shooters mixing with each other. This is particularly important in the high and very high risk areas. Whilst this is often easy to achieve whilst on the range and actually shooting, care needs to be taken to ensure the club systems do not allow mixing of shooters to take place when preparing or after they have finished shooting and social distancing is maintained at all times.
- Make sure you know which Tier your members are from and ensure that no travel is taking place in or out of a Tier 4 area. Please make sure your members are aware of this change.
- Make sure club systems follow the Government and NSRA guidance. In particular make sure masks are worn in indoor spaces, social distancing rules are strictly adhered to and make sure club members:

Come prepared to shoot and then go home – do not hang around and socialise.

Note: "Individual Shooting Only" means one shooter per firing point per time slot allocated by the club's booking system. It does not mean only one person may use the range at one time. However, there must be no spotters, assistants or spectators on that firing point at the same time unless it is someone from the same support bubble. It means there must be no group activity, which for the majority of disciplines, is the manner in which we already shoot.