

New Local COVID Alert Levels – 14/10/2020

The government have brought into force new local COVID Alert Levels in England in response to an increase in cases in some parts of the country. They split the country in to areas classified as Medium, High and Very High Risk. These affect many aspects of life including sport.

In the Medium Risk areas, sport can carry on much in the same, regulated way as in recent months.

One of the key messages within the new guidance for High and Very High Risk areas is:

“...Other activities, such as indoor exercise classes and other activity groups can only continue provided that households or support bubbles do not mix. Where it is likely that groups will mix, these activities must not go ahead...”

This translates to the situation in target shooting is as follows:

Medium Risk areas:

- Shooting indoors and outdoors can continue in the same way following local and government guidelines along with the NSRA Guidance.

For High and Very High Risk areas:

- Shooting can continue to take place outdoors.
- Indoors shooting can continue for youth or disabled shooters
- 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.

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.

In light of these changes we advise all clubs to find out the risk level of their area and revisit their Risk Assessments. Clubs must 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.

The main points to reiterate are make sure club members:

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