



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP**

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities  
and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
Government**

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All Members of Parliament in the UK

[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

Dear Colleague,

### **Covid-19: Businesses subject to further social distancing measures across the UK**

As you are aware, in order to reduce the spread of Covid-19, on Monday 16 March the Government made the difficult decision to ask the public to work from home where possible, and avoid all unnecessary social contact including in social venues such as pubs, restaurants, clubs, and theatres.

This guidance is helping to reduce the spread of the virus and therefore reduce mounting pressure on our National Health Service, allowing those most acutely affected with Covid-19 to access the care they need.

However, we are now at a stage where we need to do more.

In order to further reduce social contact, from **the close of trading today**, the Government is telling the following businesses across the UK close:

- Food and drink venues for consumption on-site, such as restaurants and cafes.
- Drinking establishments, including pubs, bars and nightclubs.
- Entertainment venues, including cinemas, theatres, concert halls and bingo halls.
- Museums and galleries.
- Spas, wellness centres and massage parlours.
- Casinos and betting shops.
- All indoor leisure and sports facilities, including gyms.

Takeaway and delivery facilities should remain open and operational. We will change planning regulations so that restaurants, cafes and pubs which do not currently offer delivery and hot food take away are able to do so.

These measures will be put in place and then reviewed on a monthly basis to consider their effectiveness and compliance in light of changing circumstances.

I know the economic impact of this will be significant. To reduce it, the Chancellor has introduced a series of substantial measures to support the economy and businesses through this challenging time.

Further detailed guidance for businesses and local partners will be provided on GOV.UK later today.

The weeks ahead will not be easy, but ruthless and determined collective action will allow us to succeed, turn the tide and return to normality. We have an enormous challenge ahead of us but the Government will do whatever it takes to help people across this country at this difficult time.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jenrick." The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

**RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP**