

Dear Friend,

I wanted to explain the impact of the new restrictions applying to the Caerphilly County Borough Council area for places of worship. There is a fuller question and answer guide available on the [Welsh Government](#) web-site. This is an extract to help you understand the implications for communities you may be responsible for in Caerphilly.

The general restrictions are;

- People will not be allowed to enter or leave the Caerphilly County Borough Council area without a reasonable excuse;
- Everyone over 11 will be required to wear face coverings in shops and other indoor premises open to the public;
- People will only be able to meet outdoors – meetings with people from other households indoors will not be allowed for the time being. People cannot form with extended households with other households (sometimes known as “bubbles”) nor meet with people from an extended household they formed before these additional restrictions were imposed.

#### **Places of worship, marriages, civil partnerships and funerals**

- At this stage no changes have been made to the operation of places of worship. Congregational and individual acts of worship can still take place, but all participants should now wear face coverings.
- Marriages and civil partnership ceremonies can take place. Invited guests are able to travel from outside Caerphilly County Borough Council to attend the marriage or civil partnership but not the reception.
- If invited you can attend a funeral within the Caerphilly County Borough Council area, or leave the area to attend a funeral. Only people who live within the Borough Council can attend the wake or funeral tea within .
- If you are invited people can attend a wedding, civil partnership or funeral outside the Borough Council however they should not attend wedding receptions or funeral teas.

#### **Meeting people indoors**

The extended household rules have been suspended in Caerphilly County Borough Council. This means you should not be meeting up with anyone from your previous extended household indoors. If you live in the Caerphilly County area, in order to help prevent the spread of coronavirus you should not;

- Host people from any other households in your home, even if they are from your extended household
- Visit people you do not live with in their home no matter where that is. This applies to those who are in your extended household.
- Meet anyone from outside your own immediate household in any indoor hospitality settings such as cafés, bars and restaurants.

You can still meet people from other households in gardens or public outdoor areas, though you should continue to socially distance.

## Face coverings

- Everyone over the age of 11 must wear face coverings while in shops and any other indoor public places, unless they are eating or drinking there.
- There are some limited exceptions to this requirement, to cover issues like specific health needs. These are the same as the rules for wearing face coverings on public transport.

These restrictions have been put in place because there is now evidence of community transmission in Caerphilly, which means the virus cannot be isolated to a specific outbreak. This will affect the risk judgements you make regarding what activities are safe and what should be avoided at this time. The most important response is, of course, disciplined application of the social distancing and hygiene measures you will have already been using.

The restrictions will be first reviewed a fortnight this Thursday and every 7 days after that.