

Coronavirus Act (COVID-19)

The Government introduced a new law on 26 March, called the Coronavirus Act 2020.

The Coronavirus Act gives the police more enforcement powers, to reduce the spread of Coronavirus.

If people do not stay at home and avoid non-residential travel, this is breaking the law and police can:

- instruct you to go home, leave an area or disperse
- ensure parents are taking necessary steps to stop their children breaking these rules
- issue a fixed penalty notice of £60, which will be lowered to £30 if paid within 14 days
- issue a fixed penalty notice of £120 for second time offenders, doubling on each further repeat offence
- People who do not pay a fixed penalty notice could be taken to court. Magistrates can impose unlimited fines.
- If people continue to refuse to comply, they will be breaking the Law. The police may arrest them if they think it's reasonable and necessary.
- In the first instance the police should always apply their common sense and discretion.
- This new Law will last six months, with a review every three weeks.

UK Lockdown rules: We are currently allowed to leave home for the following reasons:

- Shopping for basic necessities: "as infrequently as possible".
- Taking one form of exercise a day, for example, a run, walk, or cycle: alone or with members of your household.
- Dog walking is permitted as part of the exercise people can take per day. Households with two or more members can take it in turns to walk their dog so the dog gets more than one walk a day.
- To look after any medical need, to provide care, or to help a vulnerable person.
- To donate blood.
- Children aged under 18 with separated parents can visit both homes.
- To travel to and from work, "but only where this is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home".