



Public Protection & Licensing  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
City Hall  
64 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 6QP

Date: 09/12/2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is to advise you about the latest covid-19 legislation and how it applies to your business.

**The Government introduced a Tier-based system which came into effect on 2 December 2020. London is currently in Tier two. The regulations for Tier two restrict any business which provides, whether for payment or otherwise:**

- (i) a waterpipe to be used for the consumption of tobacco or any other substance on the premises, or**
- (ii) a device to be used for the recreational inhalation of nicotine or any other substance on the premises.**

**This means that the supply of shisha smoking is now prohibited and you must cease providing it immediately.** This applies to smoking both inside and outside your premises. To continue would constitute a criminal offence under the Regulations and could result in formal action being taken against you including fines of up to £10,000 and/or prosecution.

#### **What you can do**

You are still permitted to sell food and drink in line with the current rules, whilst continuing to ensure a safe and hygienic environment for your staff and your customers. This means ensuring social distancing measures are in place and minimising staff-customer interaction. You may have to limit the number of people in/ on your premises at any one time to avoid overcrowding. All customers must wear face coverings, except when seated at a table to eat or drink. Staff in hospitality venues are also required to wear face coverings.

Under Tier two restrictions, hospitality venues:

- can only allow groups from the same household or support bubble indoors
- may allow groups of up to 6 people from different households outdoors, this is called the 'rule of 6'
- businesses that sell alcohol for consumption on their premises are required to provide table service only and can only serve alcohol with substantial meals
- venues must close between 11pm and 5am
- businesses selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through.

If you do not normally offer substantial meals, but would like to do so, please contact the council to notify us of the changes you are making by emailing [businessunit@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:businessunit@westminster.gov.uk). You also need to be aware of your responsibilities as a food business operator and have set up your business accordingly. Please find more information here <https://www.food.gov.uk/here-to-help-food-businesses>

### **More information**

You can find more information about the latest rules and help available for businesses at [www.westminster.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-businesses](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-businesses)

Your faithfully,

Sue Jones

Head of Service, Public Protection & Licensing