



Covid 19 update 23 Dec 2020

Tier 4 'Stay at Home' Restrictions

The situation remains complex with different guidance applying in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland). Please make yourself familiar with the specific regulations in your area.

Tier 4 is a new tier in England. However, there is nothing that is currently set out on gov.uk website about Tier 4 restrictions that alters any of our previous guidance on meeting clients in person. However, unlike the November lockdown, anyone who is considered clinically extremely vulnerable and who is resident in Tier 4 is advised not to go to work (there is a list of who fits the category of extremely clinically vulnerable on gov.uk). We advise you therefore also not to meet in person with clinically extremely vulnerable clients. As in our previous guidance we advise members to follow the spirit as well as the letter of the law and act in the best interests of their clients whilst preserving their own well-being. This does not rule out working in person with psychologically vulnerable clients in Covid secure locations – even under Tier 4.

The only other update from our previous guidance relates to seeing clients in your own home (as with some private practice).

The guidance for Tiers 2, 3 and 4 says:

Where it is necessary for you to work in other people's homes - for example, for nannies, cleaners or tradespeople - you can do so. Otherwise, you should avoid meeting for work in a private home or garden, where COVID-19 Secure measures may not be in place.

This has led BACP, for example, to advise their members against meeting clients in their home “if other options are available”. Whilst this is sensible advice – the key is having Covid-19 secure measures in place in whatever venue you use for meeting clients in person. Previous guidance on our website helps work through decisions as to whether or not to meet clients in person and sets out a requirement to undertake a risk assessment of the premises you use. The guidance is listed here in full, with the three entries under the 28th August covering decisions and risk assessments.