

The First Minister of Wales outlined strengthened measures that will come into effect from Boxing Day.

Funeral service rules are the same as previously, they are exempt from the *limits set by venues and are based on a site specific risk assessment, and their ability to ensure 2m social distancing.*

However, to allow for the rule of 6 (see below), it is possible to allow for 2m physical distancing between groups of 6 people (excluding any carers or under 11's from those households) or individual families. 2ms must be kept between each group (of six or individual family). Also the group of six must agree to be part of a group of six too.

Wakes, will also not have a cap in the regulations on numbers – with numbers being determined again by a site specific risk assessment and their ability to maintain social distancing. This distinction is made because of the importance of these events. The advice is that people attending should take a Lateral Flow Test on the day of the event and not attend if it is positive.

Strengthened measures to keep Wales safe as omicron strikes

[Strengthened measures to keep Wales safe as omicron strikes | GOV.WALES](#)

From Boxing Day, the alert level two measures will mean:

- A general requirement of 2m social distancing in all premises open to the public and workplaces, where reasonable.
- The rule of 6 will apply to gatherings in regulated premises, such as hospitality, cinemas and theatres.
- All licensed premises will need to take additional measures to protect customers and staff, including table service and collecting contact details.
- Face coverings will be required in hospitality settings at all times apart from when seated.
- Large events will not be allowed indoors or outdoors. The maximum number of people who can gather at an indoor event will be 30 and 50 outdoors.
- There will be an exception for team sports, up to 50 spectators will be able to gather, in addition to those taking part. There is also an exception for events involving children.

Last week new measures were announced for workplaces and retail – these will now come into force on Boxing Day. Nightclubs will also close on Boxing Day.

The Welsh Government will not be making new rules about mixing in people's private homes, including gardens, in holiday accommodation or meeting outdoors. Instead guidance will be issued to help people stay safe.

To help people stay safe in their homes, we strongly advise everyone follows these 5 measures:

- Limit the number of people visiting your home.

- If people are visiting, make sure they take a lateral flow test in the morning before the visit.
- Meeting outdoors is better than indoors. If you're meeting indoors make sure it's well ventilated.
- Space out any visits.
- And don't forget about social distancing and washing your hands.

There will be a separate offence for large gatherings – more than 30 people indoors or 50 people outdoors – in private homes and gardens.

Changes to self-isolation requirements in Wales – 22 December 2021

[Self-isolation | GOV.WALES](#)

Summary of the changes

- From 22 December, our position on self-isolation will change. All over 18s who are **fully vaccinated** (having received two full doses of an approved vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine) and children aged 5 to 17 will be asked to take lateral flow tests every day for 7 days if they are contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- They do not need to self-isolate unless they have a positive lateral flow test or develop symptoms. In either of these cases, they should book a PCR test as soon as possible.
- Anyone who meets the above criteria and is currently isolating as a contact can stop isolating on 22 December and use daily lateral flow tests instead. This includes anyone isolating as a contact of a confirmed or suspected Omicron case.
- Our position remains unchanged **for unvaccinated adults** who must continue to isolate for 10 days. Our position on children under 5 also remains unchanged and they are not required to self-isolate or test as contacts.
- These changes simplify our current approach to self-isolation. Anyone who is fully vaccinated or aged 5 to 17 can access daily contact testing instead of self-isolation, regardless of whether they are a household or close contact. This also removes our previous specific regulations on contacts of Omicron cases.

The NHS Covid app will be updated in due course and additional messaging will be provided.