**(H1) {Alert Banner}**

* An alert banner displays a special message at the beginning of a page that is different from the regular content of a page. Alert banners tell the user about something they need to know about, for example, an upcoming deadline or an important health update.
* Alert banners are distinct messages that can warn the user when something is about to go wrong, inform the user something critical has happened and requires immediate attention, or give a general announcement to the user.

**(H2) When to use**

* An important danger or warning message that needs to be immediately communicated to all users
* System statuses and updates, such as the connection to the sever was lost, local changes will not be saved.
* Inform the user something critical has happened and requires immediate attention.
* Give a general announcement to the user. For example, a website will be down for a specific period of time.
* Give user-specific announcements, such as confirming that an email has been sent or a form was successfully submitted

**(H2) When not to use**

* Use sparingly. Users often miss them due to banner blindness and selective attention.
* Do not use them for validation errors as it can be very disruptive and distracting. Use an error message – see the validation component for more guidance.
* Immediate action required – such as permanently deleting a file. Use a modal component in those instances to allow the user to confirm or cancel the action.

**(Drawer title) Accessibility for {Banner}**

* Make sure the words in the banner can instantly convey the severity or importance of the message for users who have difficulty perceiving certain colors.
* To inform users on assistive technologies about the importance of the banner message, use proper ARIA roles.
  + [role=”alert”] is for messages requiring immediate attention
  + [role=”status”] is for important general or instructional information but without the same urgency as [“alert”]
  + [role=”region”] is for general information and updates that is important but not urgent. This will require an additional [aria-label] or [aria-labelledby] attribute to help specify the message
* If applicable, use an appropriate heading level to help structure the content of the alert banner message, but not for single-line messages.

**(Drawer title) Best practices for {Banner}**

* Keep the alert banner message relevant to what the user’s actions or goals are
* Always be clear, concise and, where possible, give follow up actions that help user become more informed or resolve an issue. – do we need this or is this included in the writing guide?
* Depending on the context of the message, include a link to further inform the user
* Alert banners should be located before the <H1> of a at the top of the screen. This will make them easier to find.
* Make sure the alert banner the same length as the other components on the screen
* Use different colors for different types of banners. Red and orange color banners for more urgent messages, blues and greys for general information, and green for success alerts.
* Give users an option to dismiss an alert banner if appropriate.