Contrast Colour

Guidance

Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do

Updated 23 September 2021

This is national guidance that applies to England only - guidance in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland differs. Find out more about the specific rules in these parts of the UK. We will update this guidance when there are changes to the rules in England. Some restrictions have been imposed, different guidance and regulations will apply. Please consult the local restrictions page to see if any restrictions are in place in your area.

1. Changes from 22 September

On 22 September, the government announced new measures to ease the rules.

Some of these new restrictions will be set out in the law and guidance. The public and other employers will be able to rely on the guidance knowing that don't comply with law.

Further information about these changes can be found in the relevant sections below.

Detailed guidance on the new rules is now live to meet people safely, including our changes to gatherings rules, and for Social Care.

2. Social contact

See the guidance on meeting with others safely.

2.1 Can I visit people indoors?

Yes, when meeting with people you don't live with you can socialise in groups of up to 6. This is a legal limit. If your household (and/or support bubble) is in a group, the limit is 6 households or 6 people.

You should continue to maintain social distancing with anyone you do not live with, including those you may be meeting in a group. Children under 5 are not part of maximum limits for this, including for larger households and support bubbles.

2.3 Can I see outdoor friends if I'm seeing friends in a park or going to my parents' garden?

You can help control coronavirus and protect those you care about by meeting up outdoors. However where this is not possible or is not practical or desired, or if you do go outside, transport, you must wear a face covering and you should follow the safer travel guidance for passengers.

2.4 Are children counted in the group of 6?

Yes.

2.5 Can I share a private vehicle with someone from another household?

You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble if possible.

- ventilate the transport vehicle with the same people regularly
- wear a face covering or mask if you are aged 12 or over
- clean your hands on arrival and on leaving the transport vehicle
- travel only by car or private vehicle
- travel only by car or private vehicle, rather than facing others, where possible
- face away from others
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- open windows to improve ventilation, where possible (this may be difficult if you share your car with others and other areas that people may touch
- make sure the vehicle is cleaned after each journey

The Department for Transport has provided specific guidance on using private hire vehicles (PHV) and taxis, including information for passengers, PHV operators, information on car sharing and travelling with people outside your household group.

2.6 Can I stay overnight in someone else's home?

Yes, you can stay overnight in someone else's home, but only if you do not form a new bubble or join one. You can only do this if your household (and/or support bubble) is in a group of 6 or less.

You should ensure you maintain social distancing with anyone you do not live with, including those you may be meeting in a group. Children under 5 are not part of maximum limits for this, including for larger households and support bubbles.

People in the same support bubble can stay overnight with each other in larger groups as they count as one household.

2.7 Can I look after my grandchildren?

Yes. People in groups of up to 6 can meet indoors or outdoors, which enables people to socialise with their friends and family, including children who are able to meet as part of a group.

We recognise that grandparents and other relatives often provide informal childcare to their grandchildren and other family members. Children should by in normal circumstances be able to form part of a support bubble wherever possible. It may not always be practicable to do so when providing childcare, for example if a child is in a group of 6 with their parents and they wish to engage in childcare with their grandparents. Groups should be kept as small as possible, and take other precautions such as washing hands and clothes regularly.

If you have formed a support bubble with your grandchildren's household, you can continue to care for your grandchildren as you normally would. There can be close contact and social distancing is not necessary.

2.8 Is there a limit on the number of people attending funerals?

The rule of 6 does not apply to funerals. For funerals, there is a higher legal limit of 30 people. This limit of 30 is a legal limit. You should maintain social distancing to those outside of your household or support bubble wherever possible. If many people attend, it may be practicable to do so when providing a funeral service. Children under 5 are not part of maximum limits for this, including for larger households and support bubbles. Children under 5 should be counted in the total number of people attending a funeral.

Within those legal settings, people do not need to limit their interactions to groups of 6, but social distancing should still be followed between people not in the same household or support bubble.

See further guidance on weddings ceremonies and civil partnerships.

2.10 When can I gather in groups of more than 6?

Groups of up to 30 people can meet for any reason, as long as social distancing is followed and adequate ventilation. This same applies for your support bubble. Children under 5 are not part of maximum limits for this, including for larger households and support bubbles.

There are exceptions where groups can be larger than 6 people, including:

- for work, or the provision of public services
- regulated childcare, education or training
- supervised activities for children, including children's sport, youth groups, groups and activities, and children's playgroups
- organised outdoor sport for adults
- providing emergency services or healthcare, or for reasons of safety or to care for a vulnerable person
- funerals – up to 30 people. From 22 September, this does not include wakes (which are capped by the rule of 6 and other legal limits on gatherings in pubs)
- organised outdoor sport or licensed outdoor physical activity, and supervised sporting activity for people with a disability or impairment. (Organised outdoor sport or exercise classes can take place in larger numbers, provided they are in a venue that is a place of worship, or a venue used for the purpose of a place of worship or for a wedding or civil partnership ceremony
- elite sporting competitions and training
- weddings and civil partnership ceremonies and religious groups to provide medical or therapy as part of their ministry. This includes pre-marriage or civil partnership meetings, receptions, wakes, new parents, people who lost their children, and those who are bereaved, and groups of people who are part of a religious or cultural association
- exhibitions – if organised in compliance with COVID-19 Secure guidance, or if organised outdoors

Where a group is allowed to meet for one of these reasons, it may then be a mixed gathering of up to 30 people (plus 30 people, for example, that a hairdresser can go to cut the hair of a household or a without-dwelling the rule of three and they can be such).

2.11 Does this mean that no more than six people can be in a pub, restaurant or place of worship at once?

Venues following COVID-19 Secure guidelines can host more than 6 people in a group, as long as they are not from more than 6 households. They can host the same household or support bubble, and children under 5 are not part of these places, such as a pub, shop, leisure venue, restaurant or place of worship are closed.

- follow the limits on the number of other people you should meet with at a venue (for example, you can only meet with one other household or support bubble in a hairdresser or barber shop, but can have more than 6 people in larger than 6 people. this is your permitted group and you cannot meet other people in the venue at the same time
- wear a face covering (except for when eating and drinking)

2.12 Can I have a celebration for significant or ceremonial events, other than weddings?

Up to 30 people can take part in civil ceremonies and religious ceremonies and other ceremonies, such as those to celebrate a life, or to mark a birth, or for reasons that these events must be limited to 30 attendees.

Events like christenings and bar mitzvahs can take place as part of a larger gathering within communal worship groups that groups of more than 6 do not attend.

2.13 Do I have to socially distance from my partner / boyfriend / girlfriend?

People in a sexual relationship do not need to socially distance. It is the only stages of a relationship, you should take particular care to follow the guidance on social distancing. If you do not live with your partner or someone, you should discuss how you can minimise the risk of transmission as a couple, for example, by ensuring you are both avoiding close contact with other people as much as possible.

2.2 Are day trips ok?

Yes, day trips to another town are allowed. You should take hygiene and safety precautions if only carries by the way. You should practice social distancing and wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and where it is difficult to maintain social distance. Some restrictions on travel between areas in tier 3 and tier 4 areas. If you do not live in a place that is in tier 3 or tier 4 and you do not plan to stay overnight, you can travel to a place in tier 3 or tier 4 for a day trip. You should not stay overnight in a place in tier 3 or tier 4 unless you have come from one of a covering tier 3 area, and you are required to complete a passenger locator form before you arrive in the UK. You should be ready to show the relevant passenger locator form, if requested.

2.3 Are day trips ok?

Yes, day trips to another town are allowed. You should take hygiene and safety precautions if only carries by the way. You should practice social distancing and wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and where it is difficult to maintain social distance. Some restrictions on travel between areas in tier 3 and tier 4 areas. If you do not live in a place that is in tier 3 or tier 4 and you do not plan to stay overnight, you can travel to a place in tier 3 or tier 4 for a day trip. You should not stay overnight in a place in tier 3 or tier 4 unless you have come from one of a covering tier 3 area, and you are required to complete a passenger locator form before you arrive in the UK. You should be ready to show the relevant passenger locator form, if requested.

3. Visiting public places and taking part in activities

3.1 Are there restrictions on how far I can travel?

No. You can travel within England or Wales to visit friends or family or for any other reason.

You can use public transport but it is better to travel in other ways if possible. It is difficult to socially distance on public transport and there is a risk of coronavirus can occur in this context. So avoid travelling with someone from outside your household or support bubble if possible, and practice social distancing.

Further guidance on car sharing is available. If you need to use public transport, the transport operator will be taking measures to keep you safe. Passengers on public transport you are legally required to wear a face covering.

If visiting other parts of the UK, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – you should follow the rules in place in the area you are visiting, including any local lockdowns. If you are local to Ireland, you should follow the laws of other countries you are visiting. Travel between Great Britain and Ireland is currently not subject to 14 days, unless you have come from one of a covering tier 3 area, and you are required to complete a passenger locator form before you arrive in the UK. You should be ready to show the relevant passenger locator form, if requested.

3.2 Are day trips ok?

Yes, day trips to another town are allowed. You should take hygiene and safety precautions if only carries by the way. You should practice social distancing and wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and where it is difficult to maintain social distance. Some restrictions on travel between areas in tier 3 and tier 4 areas. If you do not live in a place that is in tier 3 or tier 4 and you do not plan to stay overnight, you can travel to a place in tier 3 or tier 4 for a day trip. You should not stay overnight in a place in tier 3 or tier 4 unless you have come from one of a covering tier 3 area, and you are required to complete a passenger locator form before you arrive in the UK. You should be ready to show the relevant passenger locator form, if requested.

3.3 Can I go on holiday? Can I stay in my second home?

Yes.

However, you should not go on holiday in England with people you do not live with, or in groups of more than 6 people, or in groups of more than 6 people. Doing so is against the law. You should ensure you maintain social distancing and follow the guidance for travelling safely.

If you are in a support bubble with people who do not live in your household, you can stay overnight without needing to maintain social distancing. Children under 5 are not part of maximum limits for this, including for larger households and support bubbles.

Take particular care to maintain excellent hygiene – washing hands and surfaces – and avoid using shared facilities like bathrooms wherever possible.

3.4 What happens if I become unwell while on holiday in England?

If you develop symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) while staying in overnight accommodation, you should follow the guidance for travelling safely. Hotels and other providers of overnight accommodation, and campsites, are not being asked to keep a record of your stay. If you feel it positive you should return home, you should do so by your own means, if possible, and you should follow the guidance for those who are thought to be at risk to safeguard and support people with others on your journey home.

Hotels and other providers are not required to reduce the spread of the virus. If you are staying in overnight accommodation, you should follow the guidance for accommodation and call 111 for further advice.

In most cases, it will be more practicable to return to your usual place of residence. In these cases, you should make arrangements to travel home as safely as possible, minimising the risk of transmission to others.

It may be possible for you to agree with the accommodation provider to extend your stay, if you need to self-isolate or if you are too unwell to travel. If otherwise prepared to try to find alternative forms of the business, you will be expected to pay the costs of an extended stay in that accommodation provider.

Once home, you should continue to follow the guidance for those who are isolating and call 111 for advice.

If you are in a rented accommodation provider that you can extend your stay to stay in self-isolation or if you are too unwell to travel with passengers, otherwise provided for in the contractual terms of the business, any extra costs should be borne by the tenant, unless the landlord is a local authority.

In many cases it will not be possible to self-isolate at your holiday accommodation. In these cases, it may be more practicable to travel home as safely as possible, while minimising the risk to others. If this isn't practicable, you should follow the guidance for those who are thought to be at risk to safeguard and support people with others.

If you start to feel unwell during your self-isolation period, get a test either online or by calling 119 and follow the guidance.

People you have been travelling with, or people you live with, do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms, unless contacted and asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

3.7 Do I need to follow the rules if I'm on holiday in another country?

If you are abroad, you should follow the rules of the country you are in. You should also be ready to follow the rules when you return to England. It is essential to maintain social distancing and follow the guidance for travelling safely. Don't take with and your family regularly. These rules are important whether you are in or out of the UK.

3.8 Can I visit outdoor tourist sites? What about indoor ones?

Yes, you can visit tourist outdoor areas, such as National Parks or beaches. It is advisable to check ahead to ensure the venue is open to visitors. You are also able to visit more indoor tourist attractions.

When going with people you don't live with you should only attend in groups of up to 6 people. This is a legal limit. If your household (and/or support bubble) is in a group, the limit is 6 households or 6 people. Children under 5 are not part of maximum limits for this, including for larger households and support bubbles. Everywhere applicable, for example for school groups.

3.9 Can I pray in a place of worship?

Yes, places of worship can be open for services and communal prayer in line with guidance for organised places of worship.

Places of worship can also be open for visits by more than 6 people. However, you must not mingle in a group of more than 6 people (other than with people you live with, or your support bubble, or your family). You should also follow the guidance for visiting places of worship.

Direct adherence to social distancing is strongly advised and a distance of 1metre (or 1metre with additional mitigations) is recommended. Groups should be kept from people you do not live with wherever possible.

3.10 Can I go to a pub or restaurant with people I don't live with?

Venues following COVID-19 Secure guidelines can host more than 6 people in a group, as long as they are not from more than 6 households. They can host the same household or support bubble, and children under 5 are not part of these places, such as a pub, shop, leisure venue, restaurant or place of worship are closed.

- follow the limits on the number of other people you should meet with at a venue (for example, you can only meet with one other household or support bubble in a hairdresser or barber shop, but can have more than 6 people in larger than 6 people. this is your permitted group and you cannot meet other people in the venue at the same time
- wear a face covering (except for when eating and drinking)

3.11 Can I go to a place of worship?

Yes, places of worship can be open for services and communal prayer, and for reasons of providing medical or therapy as part of their ministry.

Places of worship can also be open for visits by more than 6 people. However, you must not mingle in a group of more than 6 people (other than with people you live with, or your support bubble, or your family). You should also follow the guidance for visiting places of worship.

Direct adherence to social distancing is strongly advised and a distance of 1metre (or 1metre with additional mitigations) is recommended. Groups should be kept from people you do not live with wherever possible.

3.12 Can I sing and rehearse in a place of worship?

Yes, you can. However, you should advise your children to maintain social distancing and follow the guidance for visiting places of worship. Adherence to all these formal activities will expose they do not do so.

The club should follow COVID-19 Secure guidance.

3.13 Can I go to a pub or restaurant with people I don't live with?

Venues following COVID-19 Secure guidelines can host more than 6 people in a group, as long as they are not from more than 6 households. They can host the same household or support bubble, and children under 5 are not part of these places, such as a pub, shop, leisure venue, restaurant or place of worship are closed.

- follow the limits on the number of other people you should meet with at a venue (for example, you can only meet with one other household or support bubble in a hairdresser or barber shop, but can have more than 6 people in larger than 6 people. this is your permitted group and you cannot meet other people in the venue at the same time
- wear a face covering (except for when eating and drinking)

3.14 When will I be able to go to a football match?

Due to rising prevalence levels, it is not safe to allow fans to return to stadia. We will continue to monitor the virus, and return crowds to stadia when it is safe to do so.

3.15 Can I still participate in sport and physical activity with people I don't live with?

Yes, you can participate in sport and physical activity with people you do not live with, or your support bubble, or your family, in groups of up to 6 people. You can attend in groups of more than 6 people (other than with people you live with, or your support bubble, or your family) if you are a member of a club, or a club, or a club, or

Adults can continue to take part in non-organised sport and licensed physical activities and facilities, including for coaching, if it is organised by a national governing body, club, organised instructor/coach, business or venue operator. Children under 18 can also take part in these activities, including overnight stays, subject to social distancing and other covid-secure measures and risk assessment and ensure compliance with COVID-19 Secure guidance.

You should only engage in organised sport or licensed physical activities or outdoor physical activity where the relevant governing body has published guidance on how to do so safely in line with government advice. Sport England has published a guide to safe participation in sport. Outdoor sports can resume in Scotland outdoor physical activities may take place in Wales, and outdoor sport and recreation may take place in Northern Ireland in accordance with the relevant governing body guidance.

For adults, outdoor organised exercise classes can still take place in groups of up to 30 people, and indoor organised exercise classes can take place in groups of up to 15 people (not including those who are leading the activity). You should always ensure you socially distance from people you do not live with (or have formed a support bubble with) and follow COVID-19 Secure guidance.

From 24 September, organised indoor sport and indoor exercise classes can resume for children and young people (aged 18 and under) in groups of up to 30 people (not including those who are leading the activity). Outdoor sports can resume for all ages. There is an exemption or organised indoor team sports for children and young people.

The relevant guidance for organised sport and physical activity is available, followed for these activities. Organised Sport and Physical Activity events are permitted to take place in groups of up to 30 people (not including those who are leading the activity) in line with the relevant COVID-19 Secure guidance. This including sports and exercise groups, indoors and out, are permitted where a risk assessment has been carried out and the relevant COVID-19 Secure guidance followed.

Other forms of exercise must only take place in groups of six unless everyone is from the same household or support bubble.

When playing sports informally (where not organised in line with the rules above) with people you live with, you can play in a team of more than six (or groups of 6). It is illegal to do so in larger groups and you may be fined.

3.16 Do I have to wear a face covering in public?

You are required to wear a face covering in the following settings:

- on public transport
- in taxis or hire vehicles
- banks and private hire vehicles (PHVs) (from 23 September)
- shops and supermarkets
- hospitality venues, such as pubs and restaurants, except when eating or drinking (from 23 September)
- places of worship
- museums
- galleries
- cinemas and theatres
- places of worship
- public libraries

People are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in any other indoor settings where they come into contact with other people they do not live with.

From 23 September, you will need to have a face covering on public and private hire vehicles. You will also need to wear face coverings in hospitality venues, such as pubs and restaurants, when you are not eating or drinking. Hospitality settings, staff and customers will be required to collect their details (which specific exceptions to wear a fit-to-work-in-hospitality-venues-and-other-hospitality-settings).

You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a legitimate reason not to wear one. Legitimate reasons are:

- children under 13
- because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- to communicate with someone who relies on your face to understand
- to avoid harm or injury, to identify yourself
- to aid or alleviate a disability

You can carry something that says you do not have to wear a face covering for exemption reasons. You do not need to show this to someone if it would be unreasonable to do so because of your circumstances or if it would be unsafe for you to do so.

Relevant guidance on face coverings is available here.

3.17 Can I go to my support group?

Non-face support groups are permitted from the legal gatherings limit of 6, or 15 people, if all participants are from 2 households.

Support groups can take place in groups of up to 15 in a public place. (The support group is permitted to exceed the limit of 15 people if the group's physiotherapist, institution or a public body to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support to people who are vulnerable or in need of it, which includes, but is not limited to, providing support to people who are:

- victims of crime (including domestic abuse)
- homeless or at risk of being homeless, substance misusing alcohol, narcotics or other substance addiction(s) or addictive patterns of behaviour
- at risk of self-harming behaviour
- in fitness with, or caring for someone who is in fitness with, serious, disabling or terminal condition or who are vulnerable
- at risk of, or recovering from, mental ill-health or identity troubling illness (including an eating disorder or hoarding)
- to those who have suffered bereavement

This is an exemption for a legal gathering limit of 6 people.

Support groups not covered by this exemption can still take place if they do not exceed the legal gathering limit of six people. This means that for other groups, in a COVID-19 Secure venue or public outdoor place, there can be more than 6 people, but they must be from 2 households. Support groups can be formed by groups of 6. Where this is not possible, they can be formed by a group of 6 people, including people who live alone.

3.18 Can I go to my hobby club / amateur musical group / other leisure activity?

Members of hobby clubs and other groups can meet their 6, where people are from 2 households, or 15 people, if all are from 2 households, in a COVID-19 Secure venue or outdoor place. For example, in a COVID-19 Secure venue or public outdoor place, a group of 15 people can meet to take part in a hobby, such as a book club, or attend a class or group such as a yoga class, or a group of 15 people can meet together where this is carried out by a club with the performing arts guidance and/or sports guidance. Groups of more than 15 people can meet outdoors in groups of more than 6 at any time.

Fun amateur groups is not able to ensure that no mingling takes place between these sub-groups of more than 6 people, for example, if people at a dance activity or a yoga lesson or socialising (then such non-professional activity should not take place).

4. Clinically vulnerable groups and clinically extremely vulnerable groups, and care homes

If you have any of the health conditions listed in the clinically extremely vulnerable or are over 70 you should be cautious of the risk of infection from coronavirus.

Specific advice can be found in the clinically extremely vulnerable.

4.1 What is the current guidance for people identified as clinically extremely vulnerable and previously advised to shield?

Shielding has been paused and the shielding website – check are your vulnerable.

This means:

- you can continue to go to work as long as the workplace is COVID-19 Secure and you have been advised to do so by your healthcare worker
- clinically extremely vulnerable children should continue to attend school/college in line with the wider guidance on treatment of schools and vulnerable for children and young people who are shielding
- you can now travel in your own vehicle, or with your household (if this is keep your overall social interactions low and keep to the new gathering limit of 6 people, or 15 people if all are from 2 households, and follow the rules on keeping 2 metres away from people you do not live with, and wearing a face covering in shops and on public transport.
- it is also advisable to stay particular attention to washing your hands frequently, avoiding touching your face and practicing social distancing of frequently touched areas in your home and/or workspace

For practical tips on staying safe, see the clinically extremely vulnerable guidance.

Those who were previously identified to be on the Shielding patient list and need extra help may receive this through:

- local volunteer support by contacting your local authority
- priority access to food delivery slots, for those who are unable to buy food online or in-person
- priority slots for supermarket deliveries (if you previously registered for free supermarket deliveries)

Further information can be found in the clinically extremely vulnerable guidance.

4.2 What safety standards have been put in place in care homes?

We have published the sector-specific guidance for adult social care. The plan sets out the actions the government will be taking at the national level, and the actions that providers and local authorities should take to ensure care homes are safe for those providing care and those receive care.

Detailed guidance on isolation procedures, PPE and infection control, cleaning and hygiene, testing, staff deployment, and visiting care homes has been published. Local authorities will also be provided with tailored reviews and assistance to line with the latest scientific evidence.

4.3 Can I visit visit a family member who lives in a care home?

Care homes are able to re-open to family and so any visit that is designated as 'an essential visit' can take place, subject to strict COVID-19 Secure guidance.

We have introduced lighthouse measures which will enable residents and their loved ones to meet safely with the least possible risk of infection. We are supporting staff to ensure they are COVID-19 Secure.

There information on visiting arrangements in care homes.

5. Going to work and being COVID-19 Secure

5.1 Who is allowed to go to work?

With the exception of the organisations listed below, guidance on closing businesses and venues. The government has not required any other business to close or to limit the number of people who can attend work.

To help control the virus, office workers should continue to work from home where possible. Those who are able to do so, should continue to work from home. Employers should continue to support their employees who are able to work from home, including educational settings, should continue to go into work where appropriate. Those who are able to return to workplaces should be encouraged to do so. The risk of transmission of coronavirus is lower in workplaces that follow COVID-19 Secure guidelines and followed closely. Extra consideration should be given to those people at higher risk.

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable, you can go to work as long as the workplace is COVID-19 Secure and you have been advised to do so by your healthcare worker.

Anyone with symptoms of coronavirus should not attend work. They should immediately self-isolate and book a test. Other members of their household should self-isolate. See: How to self-isolate for those showing symptoms.

5.2 What are the 'COVID-19 Secure' safety guidelines workplaces have to put in place?

We have set out clear, practical steps businesses can take to work safely in line with the COVID-19 Secure workplace guidance.

From 24 September it will become law for certain businesses to put in place COVID-19 Secure measures, including:

- licensed food and drink venues (except take-aways) must provide table service to customers and ensure they are seated when ordering and seated when consuming food and drink purchased
- the following venues will have restricted opening hours, requiring closure to customers between 10pm and 5am: hospitality venues, such as pubs, bars, bingo halls, spa, and racecourses), social clubs, casinos, betting shops, amusement arcades (and other similar premises), and adult gaming centres. Hospitality venues will be able to open for deliveries and take-aways after 10pm and will be able to open for customers to eat and drink on-site for as long as this is through delivery service or drive-thru.
- the sale of alcohol will be prohibited after 10pm in these venues. Off-sales of alcohol from premises will be prohibited after 10pm. Takeaways will have to shut after this time.

From 28 September further measures will become law:

- a wider range of venues and entertainment venues, venues provided in premises or outdoor spaces, including those in the hospitality sector, will be required to collect customer details for the purpose of contact tracing. Venues have the risk of low, and appropriate social distancing through signage, layout, and other measures in place.
- businesses must maintain a record for 21 days and share it on request.

Employers will be banned from requiring self-isolating employees from coming to work.

5.3 Can work gatherings exceed 6 people?

Work gatherings are exempted from the gathering limit of 6. Where it is legal, includes someone who is working, they are not counted as part of the gathering. For example, if there are 6 people in a room and one of them is a delivery/cleaning/tradesman, they are fine for work.

5.4 Do I need to stay 2 metres apart – or 1 metre?

People should keep 2 metres apart wherever possible. If it is not possible to do so, where this is not – which is one extra plus mitigations that will help to prevent transmission of COVID-19. Mitigations include: avoiding face-to-face contact, limiting the time spent in close proximity, ensuring good ventilation, or a combination notice, Failure to follow the 2 metres rule, or other COVID-19 Secure guidelines, may lead to fines for companies. Giving the COVID-19 Secure guidance instead (gov.uk/coronavirus).

Local authorities are responsible for enforcing the COVID-19 Secure rules and may previous if they believe it necessary to help prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Hospitality businesses in particular have a responsibility to ensure their customers keep to their premises. We know the majority of businesses are responsible and are taking steps to ensure their premises are COVID-19 Secure. Local authorities will work with them where they are not. Where they are not, and where COVID-19 Secure guidance has been ignored, local authorities can close those businesses that are putting the public at risk.

Government may consider more prescriptive COVID-19 Secure guidance and enforcement activity by local authorities and the police, in addition to funding that has already been awarded.

6. Workers' rights

6.1 My employer is asking me to come to work but I'm scared.

To help contain the virus, office workers who can work effectively from home should do so over the coming months. Employers should work with their employee, judge an employee can carry out their normal duties from home effectively, and if not, what adjustments could be made to their working arrangements, including adjustments, should continue to be made and reviewed regularly. Anyone who cannot work from home should go to their place of work, if it is open and their employer is following COVID-19 Secure guidelines and follows the relevant guidance. Employers should be sensitive to the needs of people in isolation.

Employers are required to ensure that their workplace is not taking and local steps to ensure that their workplace is COVID-19 Secure. Failure to do so put local authority in the Health and Safety Executive who can take a range of action, including where appropriate requiring your employer to close your workplace.

6.2 What if they try to fire me because I won't go to work but cannot work at home?

We urge employers to be sensitive, reasonable decisions and listen to the concerns of their staff. Employers and employees should come to a pragmatic agreement about what is the best approach.

If individuals need advice, they should approach ACAS where they can get impartial advice about workplace rights.

7. Public Transport

7.1 Who is allowed to travel on public transport?

You should make no journey if you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or you are a vulnerable transport or driver. If you are using public transport, you should follow the public transport guidance.

To protect yourself you should also continue to follow guidance on washing safely and other, and wash your hands regularly.

8. Schools and Childcare

8.1 Education and childcare

The government is committed to doing everything possible to allow all children and young people to return to education and childcare, including those in working parents. The overwhelming majority of children benefit from attending school.

You can find out more about the government's approach to education and how schools are preparing.

8.2 How will you make sure it is safe?

Reading children and staff safe is our highest priority. As more children return to school, we will be taking a cautious approach to ensure that staff and children and young people can be adapted to operate safely.

We have published guidance setting in schools and early years on responding to coronavirus (COVID-19) including the steps they will take to ensure its operate safely and minimise the spread of coronavirus.

Protective measures to reduce transmission include regular hand cleaning, cleaning and ventilation, and maintaining a distance between people. Many schools consider staggered drop-off and arrival times, break times, and make use of outdoor space.

We have also published guidance on face coverings in education settings. Face coverings are not required in schools, but we have published guidance on situations in respective have considered wearing face coverings in schools cannot be safely managed. If they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances. We have also published guidance on how schools should be to be open to staff and children. The Department for Education has published guidance on how to support children and young people.

Students will be expected to follow the latest guidance on social contact in school and college, and will be encouraged to minimise their contact with others. Reasonable accommodation to be given in the event of an outbreak or restrictions being imposed on a local area.

8.4 Who is in my household if I am in university halls?

Your accommodation provider will identify your household in halls within which number contact tracing is managed. A household in halls is normally considered to be those students living in the same flat or on the same floor who share kitchen and bathroom facilities. Students living in halls may form a gather or groups of more than 6 with people who are not in your household.

8.5 What are the rules for quarantining if you've been abroad?

Unless you have only been in a country or territory on the UK's travel corridor in the last 14 days, you must quarantine when you return to England. You must place you are staying and not leave the place where you're staying until 14 days after your arrival in England. Failure to do so may result in a fine of £1,000. Exemptions are in place for some occupations and for travel for essential purposes. Find out more about self-isolation when you travel to the UK. The most up-to-date guidance is available. Travel to Scotland is currently prohibited.

You may be fined up to £10,000 for failure to fill out the passenger locator form ahead of your arrival in England. Travelers may be fined more than once. You also may not be allowed to enter the UK (unless you're a British or Irish citizen).

In England, if you are required to self-isolate and if you do not, you can be fined £1,000 for the first offence, £2,000 for second offences, doubling to a maximum of £10,000 for repeat offenders. Fines are also in place for those who breach their self-isolation requirements in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These fines start at £100 and are doubled – up to £4,000 – for repeated offences.

9.2 How do the quarantine exemptions work?

Passengers arriving from the countries and territories on the UK's travel corridors are not required to quarantine on arrival in England. If you have been recently worked or staying in a country or territory that is not on the travel corridors in the 14 days, when you must self-isolate at the address you provided on the public health passenger locator form.

We will keep the corridors in these countries and territories under review to ensure that they are based on the latest scientific and epidemiological evidence.

Travelers should always check the latest FCO travel advice before travelling. Travelers should also check the latest guidance on what they can do when they arrive in or returning. They are advised to follow the guidance on self-isolation and testing while they are in quarantine.

Information on self-isolation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found on their respective government websites.

9.2 How do the quarantine exemptions work?

Passengers arriving from the countries and territories on the UK's travel corridors are not required to quarantine on arrival in England. If you have been recently worked or staying in a country or territory that is not on the travel corridors in the 14 days, when you must self-isolate at the address you provided on the public health passenger locator form.

We will keep the corridors in these countries and territories under review to ensure that they are based on the latest scientific and epidemiological evidence.

Travelers should always check the latest FCO travel advice before travelling. Travelers should also check the latest guidance on what they can do when they arrive in or returning. They are advised to follow the guidance on self-isolation and testing while they are in quarantine.

Information on self-isolation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found on their respective government websites.

- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

9.3 What rules do I need to follow if I am visiting the UK?

Before you travel to the UK from anywhere outside the Common Travel Area, you should complete the public health Passenger Locator Form, providing your journey and contact details, as well as the address where you will self-isolate.

If you are required to self-isolate, when you arrive in the UK you must travel directly to the place you are staying and not leave the place where you're staying until 14 full days have passed since you were last in a non-exempt country or territory. The 14-day period starts from the day after you leave a non-exempt country or territory. A non-exempt country or territory is any country or territory that is not on the travel corridors list.

If you do not have any coronavirus symptoms at the end of your self-isolation period, you can stop self-isolating. You will then need to follow the same rules as people who live in the UK. People should follow the government guidelines, including maintaining social distancing with those they are not staying with and washing their hands regularly. If you develop symptoms at any time you should get a test and restart your period of isolation.

Is this page useful? Yes No Is there anything wrong with this page?

OGL All content is available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated

© Crown copyright