

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Businesses and Employers Bulletin – 24 July 2020

This bulletin is issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and provides the latest information for employers and businesses on coronavirus (COVID-19). All coronavirus business support information can be found at [gov.uk/business-support](https://www.gov.uk/business-support)

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Face coverings mandatory in shops, supermarkets, shopping centres and enclosed transport hubs

Face coverings must be worn in additional enclosed public spaces from 24 July in England. In England you must wear a face covering by law in the [following settings](#):

- public transport
- indoor transport hubs
- shops and supermarkets
- indoor shopping centres
- banks, building societies, and post offices.

It will be compulsory to wear a face covering when buying food and drink to take away from cafes and shops. Face coverings are not required in hospitality settings, including restaurants with table service, bars, and pubs. They are also not required in entertainment venues (such as cinemas or casinos), visitor attractions (such as heritage sites or museums), exercise and sports venues (such as gyms).

Face coverings are not mandatory for anyone under the age of 11 or those with disabilities or certain health conditions.

Shops, supermarkets and other premises where face coverings are required are encouraged to take reasonable steps to promote compliance with the law and could refuse entry to anyone who does not have a valid exemption. Transport operators can deny access to their public transport services if a passenger is not wearing a face covering, or direct them to wear one or leave a service if they are not wearing a face covering.

Find out more [here](#).

REMINDER: COVID-secure webinars for hospitality and close contact services

Join a free webinar, hosted by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to recap COVID-secure guidance on how to operate safely and to provide your feedback on implementing the guidance in practice, and where you would seek further clarification.

- **Working safely during Coronavirus: Close Contact Services: 11am Tuesday 28 July**–Recap how to make your workplace COVID-secure by joining this webinar providing guidance for close contact services, such as hairdressers, barbers, beauticians, tattooists, sports and massage therapists, dress fitters, tailors and fashion designers. Register [here](#).
- **Working safely during Coronavirus: Restaurants, Pubs and Bars: 3pm, Tuesday 28 July**– Recap how to make your workplace COVID-secure by joining this webinar providing guidance for restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes & takeaways. Register [here](#).

New Updates and Guidance

New

Blackburn with Darwen and Luton – sport and exercise facilities to remain closed

The latest data shows the incidence of COVID-19 in Blackburn with Darwen and Luton is higher than in other areas of the country and therefore the further easing of lockdown measures in these areas will be paused. This means indoor gyms, swimming pools and other sport and exercise facilities will not reopen in Luton or Blackburn with Darwen on 25 July. More information is available [here](#).

Most comprehensive flu programme in UK history will be rolled out this winter

Eligible groups are urged to get their free vaccine every year. However with COVID-19 still in circulation, this year's campaign will be particularly vital to protect the most vulnerable and reduce the number of people needing flu treatment from the NHS.

- Expanded flu vaccination programme to protect vulnerable people and support the NHS
- Free vaccine to be made available for people aged 50 to 64 later in the year
- Households of those on the shielded patient list eligible for free flu vaccination and school programme expanded to the first year of secondary schools for the first time.

Find out more [here](#).

Travel corridors

From Tuesday 28 July 2020, passengers will not need to self-isolate when arriving in England from Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. 'Travel corridor' countries continue to be reviewed to monitor the situation there, to justify their exemption; and will be removed immediately should the public health situation change for the worse. Find out more [here](#).

Updated

Companies House phone line has reopened

Their telephone contact line has reopened on 0303 123 4500 and enquiries can be emailed to enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk. Find out more [here](#).

Working in vehicles guidance has been updated

Updates include the change in working from home, when to wear face coverings and work related travel. Find out more [here](#).

Staying COVID-19 Secure in 2020 notice

The notice to display to show you have made your workplace COVID-secure has been updated to reflect the change in guidance of working from home. Find the notice [here](#).

Guidance on the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme has been updated

[Links](#) to further support from HMRC through the webchat service and helpline and to include [information](#) that businesses can apply the discount to soft drinks and/or packaged snacks, as long as they are for immediate consumption on the premises.

Countryside Stewardship: extension to capital agreements

The Rural Payments Agency are offering an extension of one year to all customers with capital agreements that started after 1 April 2018 or in 2019 for: Hedgerows and Boundaries grant; Woodland creation, Woodland tree health, Woodland management plan; PA1, PA2 and PA3; Water capital grants; and Historic Buildings Restoration grants. More information is available [here](#).

Apply for the Queen's Award for Enterprise

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the most prestigious awards for UK businesses recognising and rewarding their outstanding achievements in the fields of: Innovation, Sustainable Development, International Trade and Promoting Opportunity (through social mobility). 90% of the 2020 winners were SMEs. The Awards can bring sustainable benefits to winners, including: increased staff morale, boosts to turnover and international trade, greater recognition and excellent marketing opportunities. Winners are also invited to a reception in Buckingham Palace.

Almost all UK businesses can apply, applications are open until 9 September. Find out more [here](#).