Covid-19 Bulletin 21 October 2020



More areas across England subject to tougher restrictions

The <u>Prime Minister</u> yesterday confirmed that <u>Greater Manchester</u> will move into the 'Very High' alert level from Friday 23 October and <u>South Yorkshire</u> has today also been confirmed as being the next area to move into this category from Saturday.

Discussions are also underway with West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and the North East about a potential move to 'Very High'. A full list of areas in England and their alert level classification is published on the Gov.uk website.

Guidance outlines what restrictions are in place in areas with a 'Very High' alert level.

The Government strongly advises against travel into and out of these areas, and office workers who can work effectively from home are being advised to do so over the winter. Those who cannot work from home should go to their place of work.

Health Secretary warns of long-term effects of Covid

The Government has today <u>unveiled some new data</u> and released a promotional video to help increase awareness of the impact of what is being termed 'long Covid'.

A new study from King's College London shows one in 20 people with Covid-19 are likely to have symptoms for 8 weeks or more. The symptoms of 'long Covid', including fatigue, protracted loss of taste or smell, respiratory and cardiovascular symptoms and mental health problems.

Public Health England have found that around 10% of Covid-19 cases who were not admitted to hospital have reported symptoms lasting more than four weeks and a number of hospitalised cases reported continuing symptoms for eight or more weeks after discharge.

The NHS recently announced £10 million to run designated long Covid clinics in every area across England where health experts will all help assess, diagnose and treat people who have reported symptoms ranging from breathlessness, chronic fatigue, "brain fog" to anxiety and stress.

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DVLA remains open during Welsh lockdown

The <u>Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency</u> is reminding people to use their online services for the following requests, claiming that this is the quickest, easiest and often cheapest way of accessing the services:

- Apply for a driving licence
- Renew a driving licence
- Replace a driving licence
- Tell us you've sold a vehicle
- Change your address
- Tax a vehicle
- Keep or assign a private (personalised) registration online
- Apply for a duplicate V5C log book

The Swansea based DVLA remains open Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm and Saturday 8am to 4pm, for all other requests.

Encouraging colleagues to sign-up for the BVRLA Covid Bulletins

During the past seven months the BVRLA has been issuing these Covid Bulletins to provide updates on the most relevant information to support members during the pandemic.

As the virus continues to impact the way we go about our business and live our lives, the association will continue to issue these bulletins and would like to ask those who find them useful to encourage colleagues to also sign up to receive BVRLA updates.