

Covid-19 Bulletin

22 September 2020



New rules for rental operators as PM ramps up restrictions

In [an announcement to the House of Commons](#) earlier today, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has introduced new measures to help curb the spread of Covid-19 and reduce the reproduction rate to 1, stating that “we have reached a perilous turning point”.

A month ago, the UK was seeing on average around a thousand people testing positive for Coronavirus every day. The latest figure has almost quadrupled to 3,929 and in the last fortnight, daily hospital admissions in England have more than doubled.

Those operating in the vehicle rental sector, which is categorised as ‘retail’ by the Government, now need to be aware of the fact that **staff in branches must wear face coverings** and the Government’s **Covid-secure guidelines will become legal obligations**.

The full list of new measures outlined by Mr Johnson today includes:

1. Office workers who can work from home are being asked to do so. Where homeworking is not possible, such as construction or retail, people should continue to attend their workplaces.
2. From Thursday all pubs, bars and restaurants must operate table-service only, except for takeaways. All hospitality venues must close at 10pm.
3. The requirement to wear face coverings is to include staff in retail, all users of taxis and private hire vehicles as well as staff and customers in indoor hospitality, except when seated at a table to eat or drink.
4. In retail, leisure, tourism and other sectors, the Government’s Covid-secure guidelines will become legal obligations.
5. From Monday, a maximum of 15 people will be able to attend wedding ceremonies and receptions. Though, up to 30 can still attend a funeral as now.
6. Plans to reopen business conferences, exhibitions and large sporting events from 1 October have been dropped.

Tougher penalties introduced for businesses breaking rules

The Government has already introduced a fine of up to £10,000 for those who fail to self-isolate and such fines will now be applied to businesses who fail to comply with the Covid rules.

The penalty for failing to wear a mask or breaking the rule of six will now double to £200 for a first offence.