

### **Critical worker isolation exemptions**

The Government has updated its [Test and Trace in the Workplace Guidance](#) to include information about self-isolation for workers in critical services.

Isolation exemptions are being granted to named individuals in companies who have specific functions. Blanket exemptions are not being issued to sectors or industries.

An individual is being classed as a critical worker if they work in critical elements of national infrastructure and whether their absence would be likely to lead to the loss or compromise of this infrastructure resulting in one or both of the following:

- Major detrimental impact on the availability, integrity or delivery of essential services – including those services whose integrity, if compromised, could result in significant loss of life or casualties
- Significant impact on national security, national defence, or the functioning of the state.

Those working in the transport industry with staff who meet these criteria can apply for an isolation exemption by emailing [cv19pmo@dft.gov.uk](mailto:cv19pmo@dft.gov.uk) and confirming:

- The number of people who it is proposed would leave self-isolation.
- The roles those individuals need to perform.
- The impact that failure to grant an exemption would have, and when this impact is likely to materialise (for example, is it already an issue or likely to materialise in the coming days).

### **Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme relies on employers taking action**

Those who are told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app, may be eligible for a payment of £500 from your local authority through the [Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme](#). The scheme is also open to parents and guardians who need to take time off work to care for a child who is required to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

Employees will need an NHS Test and Trace Account ID to apply. This must be obtained by the individual's employer, who should call the Self-Isolation Service Hub on 020 3743 6715 to give them the individual's contact details.

You will then be sent your NHS Test and Trace ID.

Your employer will need to provide the NHS Test and Trace Account ID of the person who tested positive and your name and contact details as a close contact. You will not be able to claim for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme if you have not been registered with the Self-Isolation Service Hub.

### **BVRLA to host first post-Covid face-to-face event**

The [Annual Parliamentary Reception](#) will be the first face-to-face event hosted by the BVRLA since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic.

Hosted in the House of Commons' Terrace Pavilion, the event will take place on Tuesday 14 September 2021, 12 noon – 3pm. Those interested in attending should email [events@bvrla.co.uk](mailto:events@bvrla.co.uk).

Bookings can be made online to attend the [2021 Leasing Broker Conference](#) which is taking place on 21 October at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London.

The BVRLA Annual Dinner is scheduled to take place on Thursday 3 March 2022, and those interested in attending should email [events@bvrla.co.uk](mailto:events@bvrla.co.uk).

### **Guidance to encourage safer travel recommends mask wearing**

The Government has updated its [safer travel guidance](#) following the easing of restrictions on the 19 July. It recommends that you should wear a face covering when travelling in a private vehicle with people you do not usually meet.

[Guidance for operators](#) has also been updated outlining safer working principles and risk assessment for transport operators and organisations.

The Department for Transport has also produced a set of posters and other [communication resources](#) to help communicate recommended guidance to keep those who are travelling in England safe. It hopes to instil confidence in those returning to public transport.

The messaging asks people to: Plan ahead. Regularly sanitise your hands. Open a window where you can. Face coverings are recommended and may be required by operators. Exemptions apply.

### **FCA to issue next mandatory Covid-19 Impact Survey**

Members who are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority are being advised that the fifth wave of the regulator's Covid-19 Impact Survey is being issued between 2 and 6 August.

Those receiving the survey will have 11 days to respond as completion of the survey is mandatory under section 165 of the Financial Services & Markets Act (FSMA) 2000.

The survey will include 10 questions in total, collating information about the following areas:

- Liquidity/ cash availability and needs
- Recent financial performance
- Scale of business activity
- Access to government schemes

Firms will be emailed a link to complete the survey online.

### **Campaign highlights importance of remaining cautious**

[New government campaign](#) has been launched across England to remind public of importance of continuing healthy behaviours to reduce the spread of Covid-19

Everyone across England is being urged to continue letting fresh air into enclosed spaces, take up the offer of twice-weekly free testing, wash their hands and book both doses of their vaccine, in a major new campaign launched on 22 July.

Short film featuring Dr Amir Khan highlights importance of remaining cautious as those vaccinated can still pass on the virus.

New research shows that nearly 9 in 10 (86%) hope that people will proceed with caution and common sense, three quarters (77%) will continue to wear face masks, 81% will practice social distancing where possible and 83% say they will continue to wash hands thoroughly and often.