

MOT testing to be reintroduced from August

The Government has [today announced](#) that mandatory MOT testing is to be reintroduced from 1 August 2020 as Covid-19 restrictions are slowly lifted.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, drivers were granted a six-month exemption from MOT testing in March to help slow the spread of the virus. However, as restrictions are eased, all drivers whose car, motorcycle or van is due for an MOT test from 1 August will be required to get a test certificate to continue driving their vehicle.

Drivers with an MOT due date before 1 August will still receive a six-month exemption from testing.

According to the Department for Transport, over 90% of garages are open across the country and testing capacity has reached 70% of normal levels and is steadily increasing.

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency has also [issued guidance to all MOT testers](#) about safely conducting tests in line with the latest government advice.

Government suspends HGV Levy for 12 months, from 1 August.

The Department for Transport has confirmed that it will be suspending the HGV Levy for twelve months, from 1 August to help support and provide some relief to hauliers.

Writing to the BVRLA and other key industry bodies last week, the DfT acknowledged the importance of the haulage industry in keeping the country moving and playing a key role in supporting our economic recovery and growth post pandemic.

There is no need for registered keepers to do anything to benefit from the twelve-month suspension. A levy rate of zero will automatically apply at a vehicle's normal VED/Levy renewal date from August onwards so that each vehicle will benefit from twelve months of zero Levy.

Safer travel guidance updated

The Government has today updated its [guidance on safer travel guidance for passengers](#) and its [guidance for operators](#), to reflect the new social distancing rules coming into effect on 4 July. The guidance for passengers also includes advice for those car sharing.

Major changes to insolvency law

[The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act](#) has received Royal Assent and came into force on 26 June 2020.

The Act is the largest change to the UK's corporate insolvency regime in more than 20 years. It introduces new corporate restructuring tools and temporary easements to give distressed businesses the breathing space they need to get advice and seek a rescue.

The Act also provides temporary relief until 30 September 2020 from being subject to a winding up petition and from wrongful trading provisions where a business can demonstrate its difficulties arise from trading conditions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. These easements are explained in more detail in a [series of factsheets](#).

[Guidance for Companies House customers](#) has also been updated to reflect the changes.

Government unveils £200 million to help innovative businesses

[The Sustainable Innovation Fund](#), unveiled this weekend, is designed to help companies recovering from the impact of coronavirus to keep their cutting-edge projects and ideas alive.

The £200 million fund is for businesses developing new technologies focused on sustainability, such as making homes and offices more energy efficient, creating ground-breaking medical technologies or reducing the carbon footprint of public transport in our towns and cities.