

Members views: Covid-19 Isolation exemptions for rental

The Government recently announced that it is expanding eligibility for daily contact testing to a wider range of emergency service and critical workers who would otherwise need to self-isolate. This process is scheduled to run until 16 August 2021, when fully vaccinated close contacts will be exempt from self-isolation.

To date, vehicle rental companies have not been included within the scope of those eligible for exemption and it would require a firm to make a very strong case if they would like the BVRLA to lobby for their inclusion.

The BVRLA would need you to be able to demonstrate that:

- You currently have lots of key staff isolating, **and**
- means you are unable to keep key transportation services running, such as ambulances, police, food supply and health services.

If a member is included in the program they will need to ensure all staff can go to the testing location every day. The onus would be on the member to ensure staff are testing correctly, they are reporting it, that they are complying with all relevant guidelines and that they have the space to do the tests in a compliant way. As such there will be costs and logistical challenges to consider for members even though the tests are free.

If members feel this is something they would be able to make a compelling case for please contact policy@bvrla.co.uk with:

- The site/sites in question
- The numbers of staff and current numbers isolating
- How the services offered are critical to the stability and functioning of the UK and individual exemptions would not work – please be **detailed**
- How services are currently being hindered by staff isolating
- Clear acknowledgement that you would have space and administrative capacity to daily test all relevant staff without exception.

New international travel rules vary depending on transport mode

[Guidance on red, amber and green list rules](#) for entering England has been updated to reflect that from 2 August, people who have been fully vaccinated in many European countries or the USA will not need to quarantine on arrival or take a day 8 test.

The requirement to [book and take a day 2 test](#) will remain. [The announcement](#) from government also confirmed international cruise restart as part of a move to reopen international travel.

Guidance has also been updated on [what to do before and after you arrive in England](#) if you've been in an amber list country in the 10 days before you arrive.

Tourism Alliance has sought clarity from government on rules for those travelling via France by land. Those travelling via France in a private car or coach from amber countries such as Belgium and Germany will, however, be required to quarantine on arrival in England, regardless of vaccination status.

In contrast, those travelling by train may be able to avoid quarantining on arrival in England if their operator, such as Eurostar, has met the conditions set out. Namely that they do not disembark or pick up new passengers at any point in higher risk countries, unless they are segregated.

Fifth Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant is now available

The [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme Guidance](#) has been updated outlining the eligibility criteria for the fifth grant. The online service went live on 28 July.

The fifth grant is different from previous grants, so those interested are encouraged to find out more using one or both of the following resources:

- You can watch a [33-minute video](#)
- You can [register to attend](#) one of the 60-minute webinars scheduled to take place between 30 July and 5 August.

The fifth grant is relevant to those who are self-employed and will have business profits impacted by coronavirus between 1 May 2021 and 30 September 2021.