

Covid-19 Bulletin

27 July 2020



Reduced VAT rate now includes motorhomes and campervans

The HMRC updated its [VAT guidance for hotels and holiday accommodation](#) to cover a broader range of eligible accommodation types, including motorhomes.

This means that the temporary reduced VAT rate will now be available for those BVRLA members who provide holiday accommodation in the form of a motorhome or campervan.

The BVRLA policy team had been lobbying government to make the case for the inclusion of motorhomes, as the original VAT exemption, announced on 8 July, covered static caravans but did not explicitly include motorhomes and campervans.

BVRLA Senior Policy Adviser, Thomas McLennan said: "This will benefit dozens of BVRLA members who provide motorhomes and campervans, so we are delighted that HMRC listened to our calls and made the right decision to support this vital part of the tourism sector."

Local lockdown regulations published

[Draft regulations outlining new powers](#) that central government could deploy in areas under local lockdown have been published.

These draft regulations have not come into force yet, but provide a toolkit of 'off the shelf' measures that could be used in the future, as local outbreaks are identified.

If used, they could provide Ministers with the flexibility to intervene if more wide-ranging action is needed to help control the spread of the virus beyond a local or regional level.

Latest national R rate figures

As at 24 July 2020, the R number range was reported by NHS England to be between 0.7-0.9 and the growth rate range is -4% to -1%.

The latest ranges for values in the devolved administrations of [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) are published on their respective websites.

Government lists those exempt from face covering mandate

Since Friday 24 July it has been mandatory for the wearing of face coverings in enclosed spaces such as shops and supermarkets.

The [Government updated its guidance](#) to include a list of those who are exempt, including anyone under the age of 11, or those with disabilities, or hidden health conditions such as breathing difficulties, mental health conditions or autism

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Advice for businesses on reporting Covid cases

The Government has [published guidance](#) for businesses and organisations in England on how to recognise, contain and report incidents of coronavirus.

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 has occurred in your business or organisation, go to the [reporting an outbreak resource site](#) to find the relevant type of organisation and follow the instructions on the action card. Some organisations will need to report an outbreak with just one confirmed case of the virus.

Companies House phone line has reopened

Coronavirus [guidance for Companies House](#) customers, employees and suppliers has been updated to reflect the reopening of its phone line.

Companies House can now be contacted by telephone on 0303 123 4500 and enquiries can also be emailed to enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk.

Working in vehicles guidance has been updated

The Government has updated its [vehicles guidance](#) on working safely during coronavirus to include:

- changes to the rules on working from home (sections 1 & 2)
- when to wear face coverings (section 6.1)
- guidance on disposing of face coverings and PPE (section 5.1), and
- work-related travel (section 7.2).