

### **Covid cases on the rise as restrictions ease**

The UK Government's [coronavirus data](#) shows that in the first 25 days of August, there were thirteen days when the number of reported cases exceeded 1,000. In July, figures remained below 1,000 every day with between 352 and 880 daily cases being reported.

As of 21 August, the [R number range for the UK](#) was 0.9-1.1 and the growth rate range is -3% to +1%, meaning that the number of new infections is somewhere between shrinking by 3% and growing by 1% every day.

### **Resources for businesses to help reduce Covid transmission**

Public Health England has published a useful [two-page visual guide](#) that can be printed as a leaflet or poster to promote what people can do to help reduce the spread of the virus in the workplace and at home. There is also more detailed [guidance on reducing transmission](#).

### **List of areas with local restrictions in place**

The Government has updated its [list of local areas with additional local restrictions](#) to include Blackburn with Darwen, Oldham and Pendle. It includes information for local authorities, residents and workers about what to do and how to manage the outbreak.

The Government's [Contain Framework](#) provides guidance for local authorities and local decision-makers on containing and managing Covid-19 outbreaks at a local level.

### **Motor vehicles continue to be preferred mode of transport**

The Government's [weekly Transport Usage figures](#) show that National Rail and London Underground usage are both continuing to hover at around a third of pre-pandemic levels, whilst motor vehicle usage is at around 90% midweek and back to normal levels during weekends.

### **Covid-19 restrictions continue to impact tourism**

[Government guidance](#) on travel corridors has been updated, reinstating Portugal to the list of countries and territories exempt from quarantine measures, whilst Austria, Croatia and Trinidad and Tobago were removed from the list. The new rules applied from 4am on Saturday 22 August.

Latest [Office for National Statistics survey on social impacts of Coronavirus](#) shows that less than 1 in 10 (8%) adults said they were likely or very likely to travel abroad on holiday if they had to self-isolate at home for two weeks upon their return to the UK.

According to the Tourism Alliance, staycations in the UK have also fallen short of anticipated demand as this summer (between 1 June to 13 August) there have been less people on holiday in the UK than during the winter period of January to March 2020.

The [BVA-BDRC Covid-19 Impact Report states](#) that UK Holiday participation is tracking at 14% while there is only 2% participation in overseas holidays.

### **Furlough trends show small firms, men and West Midlands have been hardest hit**

[Latest Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme statistics](#) show that the accommodation and food services sector has had the highest furlough rate of 77%, whilst the wholesale and retail sector furloughed the highest number of jobs, at over 1.9 million.

The West Midlands region of England reports the highest take-up rate of 34% against the UK average of 32% and men have been furloughed at a higher rate than women: 34% and 29% respectively.

Figures also show that small businesses have been hardest hit with 81% of firms with 10 to 19 employees furloughing at least one member of staff. 57% of jobs at firms with 5 to 9 employees had been furloughed against just 21% at companies with 250 or more employees.

### **Government supports over ½ million jobs in Wales**

[New statistics](#) published by HM Treasury show that the number of people in Wales receiving support through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme rose last month.

In Wales, 22,400 more jobs were furloughed in July, taking the total number to 400,800, and 2,000 more people accessed the Self-Employment Grant, making a total of 110,000 claims.

### **Government supports almost one million jobs in Scotland**

[Latest figures](#) show that as at the end of July, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme had supported 779,500 furloughed Scottish workers, up by 43,000 since the end of June.

157,000 people in Scotland also accessed the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.