

Schools close their doors today for the foreseeable future and the Government is asking parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, to help limit the spreading of the Covid-19 virus. Education providers are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children who are either deemed vulnerable or for those whose parents are classed as key workers.

What constitutes ‘vulnerable children’:

Children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, ‘looked after’ children, young carers, disabled children and those with Education, Health & Care Plans (ECHP).

What is a ‘key worker’?:

Those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors critical to the Covid-19 response as outlined in a [list published by the Government yesterday](#).

Transport falls under this list and includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Is vehicle rental classed as a key sector for the Covid-19 response?

Only vehicle rental staff that can prove that they play an essential role in supplying mobility to NHS, social care and other critical services (as set out in the link above), should assume that they also qualify as being able to use the emergency educational provision provided by schools.

Where functions can be carried out at home, they should, be in line with government’s advice to invoke social distancing and minimise contact with others.

To conclude today’s Bulletin, I want to draw your attention to the updated [BVRLA Covid-19 web page](#) which contains further information about business rates and includes links to information for those businesses based in devolved nations.

We are continuing to seek clarity from government on whether the business rate support and cash grants are also available for van and truck rental companies and leasing brokers.