

‘One metre plus’ is introduced as new social distancing minimum requirement

The [Prime Minister has today announced](#) that, where it is not possible to maintain a 2m distance, people should keep a gap of ‘one metre plus’ to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission.

Other measures to ease lockdown restrictions in England were [also announced today](#), including the opening of pubs, restaurants and hairdressers from 4 July.

The Government will be publishing guidance on how businesses can reduce the risk by taking certain steps to protect workers and customers. These include:

- avoiding face-to-face seating by changing office layouts
- reducing the number of people in enclosed spaces
- improving ventilation
- using protective screens and face coverings
- closing non-essential social spaces
- providing hand sanitiser
- changing shift patterns so that staff work in set teams

Have your say on preferred timings for MOT testing for cars and vans

The Department for Transport is consulting on removing the six-month exemption currently in place for MOT testing of cars and vans and would welcome members’ views on timings.

All cars and vans which would usually require an MOT test after 30 March 2020 are currently exempt for six months from the date the test is due.

The Government is proposing to return to mandatory MOT testing with one of the following options:

1. Within two to four weeks from the date of announcement (i.e. an announcement is made that extensions would not apply to any tests due two to four weeks after the announcement is made)
2. Within four to six weeks from the date of announcement
3. Within six to eight weeks from the date of announcement

None of these options affect exemptions that have already been issued. Those revised expiry dates will remain in place. These options affect the issue of new exemptions for MOTs that are coming up to their due dates. Please email policy@bvrla.co.uk with your preference by Thursday morning at the latest.

MOT for dangerous goods vehicles starts in July

The Government has [updated guidance](#) to state that you can book a dangerous goods vehicle (ADR) MOT inspection from 4 July 2020 - but you can still apply for a waiver if you have a 3-month MOT exemption.

From 4 July 2020, lorry, bus or trailer annual tests (MOT) and ADR annual inspections will restart. If you've been issued a 3-month MOT exemption and you do not get your vehicle tested you must apply for a waiver to continue transporting dangerous goods.

ONS publishes estimates on economic impact of Covid-19

The Office for National Statistics has published an article explaining how Covid-19 will affect the production of the UK National Accounts, including estimates of [gross domestic product](#) (GDP) and the [UK Institutional Sector Accounts](#).

The ONS has also published material on how Covid-19 might affect estimates of [inflation](#), the [labour market](#) and [productivity](#). Taken together, these provide a holistic picture of the potential effect of the pandemic on the UK economy and the practical effects of how it will be measured.

Restrictions eased for the 2.2m people who have been shielding

Government [guidance on shielding](#) and protecting the vulnerable during Covid-19 has been updated today to reflect easing of lockdown changes that will allow those who are shielding to leave their home, as long as they are able to maintain strict social distancing.

This follows [yesterday's announcement](#) from the Health and Social Care Secretary, who confirmed that those shielding can spend more time outside their homes from Monday 6 July.

Updated guidance on Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

The Government has [updated guidance](#) to provide more information about flexible furlough and overpayments.

New figures show Covid-19 growth rate across regions

The government has published [UK wide and regional growth rates for England](#) for the first time, alongside R values. The growth rate reflects how quickly the number of infections are changing day-by-day.

It is an approximation of the change of number infections each day. If the growth rate is greater than zero (+ positive), then the disease will grow. If the growth rate is less than zero the disease will shrink.