

Covid-19 Bulletin

20 October 2020



Wales enters national lockdown this Friday

A period of lockdown, being referred to as a 'firebreak', is being introduced across Wales from 6pm Friday 23 October until the start of Monday 9 November 2020 to help regain control of coronavirus.

[The firebreak](#) contains five main restrictions:

- people must stay at home, except for very limited purposes.
- people must not visit other households or meet other people they do not live with.
- certain businesses and venues, including bars, restaurants and most shops must close.
- secondary schools will provide learning online only for the week after half-term, other than for children in years seven and eight. Primary schools and childcare settings will remain open.
- face coverings continue to be mandatory in the indoor public spaces that remain open (subject to certain exemptions and exceptions), including on public transport and in taxis.

DVLA Swansea will remain open during the lockdown period, but members are encouraged to use their online services where possible.

The Welsh Government has published [guidance for businesses and employers](#). It has not yet provided specific guidance on all the businesses that can or cannot remain open during the lockdown, but government sources have indicated that vehicle rental branches will be allowed to operate.

The BVRLA is still seeking clarification from the Welsh Government on whether the collection and delivery of vehicles will be permitted as it was during this Summer's national lockdown.

Further [information for individuals and businesses in Wales](#) is available on the Gov.UK website.

The [Chancellor announced on 9 October](#) that the UK Government's Job Support Scheme is being expanded to support businesses required to close their doors as a result of any new coronavirus restrictions applied in Wales. Businesses in Wales have received more than £1.3 billion of [UK government support](#) with over 50,000 loans being issued to support businesses across all sectors.

Covid-19 Bulletin

20 October 2020



Latest R rates for all UK nations

As of 16 October 2020, the R number range for the UK is 1.3-1.5 meaning that on average every 10 people infected will infect between 13 and 15 other people. The growth rate range is +4% to +7% per day meaning that the number of new infections is growing by 4% to 7% every day.

The latest ranges for values in the devolved administrations are published on their respective websites in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#). The Gov.UK website shows a breakdown for [England and all English regions](#).

More English towns and cities move to 'High' or 'Very High' alert level

On the 17 October, [Lancashire](#) joined the Liverpool City Region on the [list of areas](#) in the 'Very High' alert category across England, whilst [more areas including London](#) will face tougher restrictions as they moved from the 'Medium' to 'High' alert level.

The [Prime Minister made a statement on Friday](#) confirming that the Job Support Scheme, combined with Universal Credit, will mean that those on low incomes who are affected by business closures in Very High alert areas will receive at least 80% of their wages. Up to £465 million is also being provided to help Very High alert level areas to implement and enforce the restrictions.

This was followed by a [statement from Health Secretary](#), Matt Hancock on the 16 October.

9.1% still on furlough just weeks before the scheme ends

The [latest indicators for the UK economy and society](#), published by the Office for National Statistics on 15 October show that:

- The proportion of the workforce on furlough on 4 October was 9.1%, down from 29.5% on 14 June.
- 48% of currently trading businesses reported that their turnover had decreased below what is normally expected for this time of year.
- The proportion of adults who travelled to work was 65%.
- Total online job adverts increased from 61% to 63% of their 2019 average.

Covid-19 Bulletin

20 October 2020



- Overall footfall increased to around 70% of its level in the same period of the previous year.

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme is now closed

Yesterday was the last day that those eligible can claim a grant through the [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#). You can no longer make a claim for the second grant.

Those who have already applied can check the [online checker](#) to get an update on the status of the application. You can also find out more about [how the HMRC calculates trading profits](#) and non-trading income.

Travel corridor list updated

[List of countries, territories and regions](#) from where you can travel to England and may not have to self-isolate has been updated. Crete was added to list 4am, Sunday 18 October whilst Italy, San Merino and Vatican City State were removed.