



## COVID guidance from 19 July

Under [step four of the roadmap](#), from 19 July, the government has confirmed COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted across most areas.

To help protect your business and employees, we recommend that you continue to practice the COVID-safe behaviours we have had in place over the last year.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act you have a duty of care to your employees.

Providing a workplace that is safe will increase the confidence of your employees, reassure your customers that it is a safe place to visit and will reduce infection rates helping to keep your business open.

All businesses should follow the principles set out in the [working safely guidance](#).

We ask businesses to review the following advice, intended to provide COVID-secure guidance around trading safely and protecting your employees and customers. Each business will need to risk assess what they can practically implement.

Event organisers risk management templates:

- [Blank template – pdf](#)
- [Blank template – Word](#)
- [Example](#)

### Face masks, space and ventilation

Face masks will no longer be a legal requirement from 19 July.

Businesses will need to set the rules for their own premises. Customers should be encouraged to wear face coverings and to make space where possible, and recommend that all staff have appropriate protection especially if they are front of house and dealing with customers.

Businesses should place posters in the window so they are clearly visible on entry and use signage to encourage customers to wear face masks and make space

Ventilation and fresh air are protective factors, so take any action you can in your premises.

Individuals are encouraged to consider their own risk and exercise judgment. People should follow the rules set by the retailer, hospitality venue or transport company they are using.

Advice remains in place around wearing a mask in enclosed and crowded spaces such as public transport to reduce the chance of catching COVID-19 as well as preventing the spread of the virus to others.



## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

[Close contact services](#), such as hairdressers and beauticians, should continue to take precautions and wear protective equipment including a face visor or close-fitting goggles and Type II face mask because of the close proximity to a customer's face, mouth and nose. It is important for staff to wear both a visor and a mask.

Close contact traders are advised to continue to operate by appointments only.

## Social distancing and hospitality

As the following legal restrictions will be lifted on 19 July, business owners must decide what measures they will implement to help manage customers and protect their staff.

- Indoor and outdoor social distancing limits and restrictions.
- Table service is no longer a requirement. Customers can order food and drinks and queue at the bar.
- People will be allowed to stand while drinking or enjoying entertainment.

Where businesses have developed app-based ordering and payment systems, we recommend these continue to be used to control the number of people standing and mixing on the premises. This will help prevent the spread of the virus keeping your staff and customers safe.

With COVID case rates at their highest levels in Bristol, we ask that you limit vertical drinking to allow for social distancing.

We encourage businesses to continue using COVID-secure measures set up under step 3 of the roadmap:

- Ask customers to remain seated to prevent a build-up of people at the bar or till area
- Allow customers to order food and drinks from an app-based booking system
- Take orders and serve food and drinks from the table
- Payment should also be made at the table
- Utilise outdoor space to allow for additional tables and chairs. You must have a [pavement licence](#) from the council to have tables, chairs and other temporary furniture on the pavement or road.

Businesses should maintain good hygiene:

- Staff and customers should clean their hands regularly with soap or alcohol gels
- Clean surfaces that people frequently touch
- Maintain good [ventilation](#), particularly in areas of poor air flow.
  - Natural ventilation (opening a window) allows fresh air in and for air to circulate. When opening a window please consider reducing volumes, in line with your licence conditions where applicable, to prevent undue noise and disturbance to your neighbours.



- Where natural ventilation is not practical for example in a nightclub, mechanical ventilation should be considered using fans and ducts to bring in fresh air from outside.
- Make sure staff and customers who are unwell do not attend the workplace or venue
- Communicate to staff and customers the measures you have put in place.

## Test and Trace

Although participation in Test and Trace is to become voluntary, we recommend displaying [QR code posters](#) to give your customers the choice of checking in on the NHS Test and Trace app.

## NHS COVID Pass

The government is encouraging businesses and larger events, including clubs and festivals, to use the [NHS COVID Pass](#) as a means of entry, to help control higher risk settings.

In England, anyone aged 16 or over, can get an [NHS COVID Pass](#). The pass shows your COVID-19 vaccination details or test results, giving a person's COVID status. The pass will show:

- Proof of double vaccination (or single dose of Janssen vaccine)
- Negative PCR test or rapid lateral flow test within the past 48 hours
- Positive PCR test within the past 6 months, showing natural immunity following a COVID infection.

Businesses will need to consider how implementing a COVID Pass would affect entry. Clear signage should be displayed to raise awareness of entry requirements and to mitigate against queues forming.

The government will work with organisations where people are likely to be in close proximity to others outside their household to encourage the use of this. If sufficient measures are not taken to limit infection, the government will consider mandating certification in certain venues at a later date.

Get a digital NHS COVID pass:

- [download the NHS App](#) – you must be registered with a GP surgery in England to use the app
- [use the online NHS COVID Pass service](#)

Get a paper version:

- [Request a COVID Pass letter online](#). This shows you've been vaccinated against COVID-19. It does not show COVID-19 test results.
- You can ask for a letter 2 weeks after having your 2nd dose of the vaccine, or 2 weeks after a single-dose Janssen vaccine. You should get it within 5 working days.

[Visit the NHS website for further details on the NHS COVID Pass.](#)



## **Vaccinations**

With the growing evidence that vaccines significantly reduce the chance of an infection leading to hospitalisation or death we encourage everyone to get fully vaccinated.

Vaccinations will help protect your workforce. Please encourage all your staff to get their vaccinations.

All adults over the age of 18 in England are able to book their first COVID-19 vaccination.

[Visit the NHS website to book or manage your COVID-19 vaccination](#) or call 119.

Keep an eye on Bristol City Council's social channels for details of the walk-in vaccination clinics.

## **Regular rapid testing**

We recommend getting regular Lateral flow (rapid) tests to help identify cases and prevent the spread of the virus. Testing can provide confidence to your workers and customers and help protect those around you.

Up to 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not display symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing.

Rapid tests are quick, free and available to anyone without COVID-19 symptoms, giving you the result within 30 minutes.

Tests should be taken in the morning, before leaving the house, to check you are COVID-free and not at risk of spreading the virus without knowing.

[Visit our website for further information on rapid testing.](#)

[Order tests online on the government website.](#)

If you or one of your employees receives a positive Lateral flow (rapid) test result or has any [COVID-19 symptoms](#) they must [self-isolate](#) immediately and [book a PCR test](#).

## **Self-isolation**

To reduce the spread of the virus, you are still legally required to [self-isolate](#) following a positive test or if you have any [COVID-19 symptoms](#). You must also self-isolate if you have been told to by NHS Test and Trace, for example if you have come into close contact with anyone who has tested positive.

Businesses must not require a self-isolating worker to come to work and should make sure that workers and customers who feel unwell do not attend the setting.



People should only return to work when they have self-isolated for the required time, or later when they feel better, or when they receive a negative PCR test result following a positive Lateral flow (rapid) test.

From 16 August, [double vaccinated people](#) will no longer be legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, people will be advised to take a PCR test and quarantine for 10 days if they test positive.

The [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) supports low income workers whose earnings are affected by having to self-isolate or look after a child or young person who has to self-isolate with a £500 grant.

### **Working from home**

It will no longer be necessary for people to work from home.

Employers can start planning a safe, gradual return to the workplace or agree alternative working arrangements with employees.

However, if home working arrangements are working for you and your staff there is no immediate need to change arrangements.

### **Returning to work safely**

For those looking to [return to work](#), the [Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\) website](#) provides a wide range of information and guidance to consider. Most importantly, please remember:

- Risk assessments: All businesses are legally required to [complete a COVID-19 risk assessment](#) to help you manage risk and protect people.
- Ventilation: make sure there is [good ventilation](#) in enclosed areas of the workplace to reduce the spread of the virus.
- Legionella: If your building was closed or has reduced occupancy during the COVID-19 pandemic, water system stagnation can occur due to lack of use, increasing the [risks of Legionnaires' disease](#).
- Cleaning and hygiene: increase how often and how thoroughly you normally [clean your workplace](#), and be sure to clean surfaces that you do not normally clean.
- Equipment testing: businesses have a legal duty to resume the examination and testing of equipment, which may have stopped due to COVID-19.

[Visit the HSE website for guidance on making your workplace COVID-19 secure.](#)



## **Domestic and foreign travel**

If you or any of your employees plan to travel domestically or internationally for any reason, please do so safely. Plan your journey as far in advance as possible and have contingency plans ready in case you or someone you are travelling with becomes unwell.

For foreign travel, the governments [traffic light system](#) remains in place and travel across the European Union remains restricted.

Travel is not recommended outside of the countries on the green list.

From 19 July, people arriving from amber list countries who are fully vaccinated will not be required to isolate.

Many UK airlines have stated that they will retain their current guidance around wearing masks onboard, making facemasks compulsory on flights.

The one-metre plus social distancing rule will remain at a border, to stop people from red and amber list countries mixing with other people.