

Safety Bulletin

IT-HSE-HG-009

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| Project/ Location | All | Date: 22/09/2020 |
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COVID-19 – Government update

Background;

22/09/20 – A Government announcement regarding the exponential increase of COVID 19 infection rates across the country and the latest restrictions that have / will be put into place.

This Bulletin is to outline the main points that will directly affect all persons in a social aspect

Note:

The work environment, safety procedures , PPE , COVID 19 precautions are unchanged , and must still be followed as per the Installation Technology guidance.

Actions/ Information

What are the current rules on socialising?

In England, a maximum of six people from multiple households can meet up both indoors and outdoors - in private homes, pubs, restaurants, and parks. All ages are included in the headcount. There are some exceptions - for example when a single household has more than six occupants.

What are the rules on mingling?

The guidelines for England refer to times when "mingling" could break the rules. It says, "there can be multiple groups of six people in a place, provided that those groups do not mingle".

If you are at a pub, restaurant, or other venue, you should "avoid mingling with anyone outside the group you are with, even if you see other people you know".

People attending a protest, or other organised event, should also attend in groups no larger than six.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said two families of four stopping for a chat would be another example of mingling that broke the rules.

Will any gatherings of more than six be allowed?

Exceptions allowed in England include:

- If your household or support bubble is larger than six

Rules and guidance on meeting up

| | England | Scotland | Wales | Northern Ireland |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| How many people outdoors? | Six from multiple households | Up to six aged 12+ from two households No household limit for groups of six aged 12 to 18 | Up to 30 outdoors | Six from two households in a private garden Up to 15 people in public spaces |
| At what distance? | 1m 'plus' | 2m apart (less in some premises) | 2m apart – age 11+ only (less in some premises) | 2m apart |
| Indoors | Six from multiple households | No social visits to private homes Up to six aged 12+ from two households at other venues | Four households can form one 'extended household' - maximum of six aged 11+ together at one time | No social visits to private homes Up to 15 people at other venues |

- Education and training
- **Workplaces**
- Protests and political events if coronavirus rules are followed
- Jury duty or other legal commitments
- Children's play groups and youth clubs
- Support groups, such as for addiction or abuse

From Monday 28 September, only 15 people will be able to attend weddings or civil partnerships, in groups of six. Funerals will be able to take place with up to 30 people attending.

Can work gatherings exceed 6 people?

Work gatherings are exempt from the gatherings limit of 6. Where a group includes someone who is working, they are not counted as part of the gatherings limit. As an example: this means a tradesperson can go into a household of six without breaching the limit if they are there for work.

What is the guidance on social distancing?

Government advice: In England, if you can't stay 2m away, you can stay "1m plus" apart. The "plus" means doing something else to limit possible exposure - like wearing a face covering

NOTE: Installation Technology procedure is **2m away**, if you have to come within 2m of other persons then face masks / PPE/RPE is to be adopted/ worn and wash or sanitise their hands regularly.

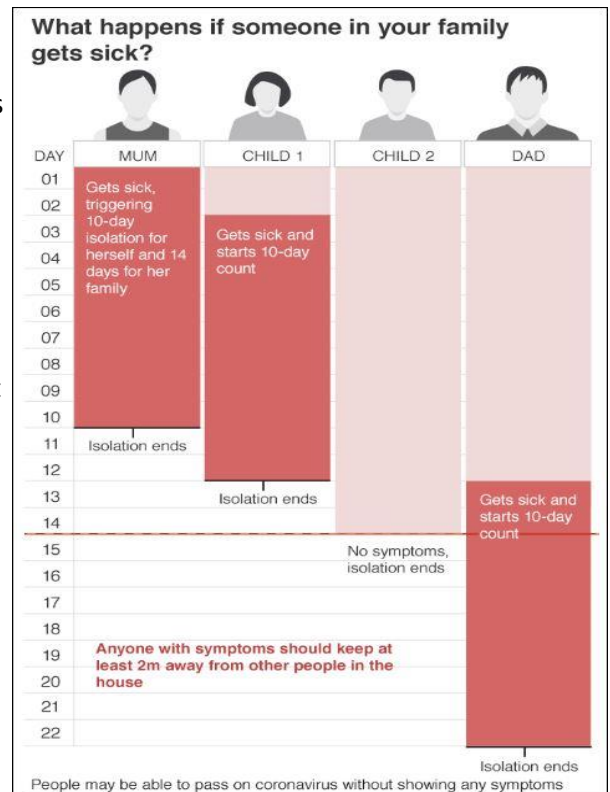
How long should I self-isolate?

Self-isolating means staying at home and not leaving it.

People who have symptoms of coronavirus should isolate themselves for 10 days and arrange to get tested. Symptoms include:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

Other members of their household should isolate for 14 days and not leave their homes.





Do I have to wear a face covering in public?

(NOTE: Face masks/ wear are mandatory at work when within 2m of others)

You are required to wear a face covering in the following settings:

- on public transport
- indoor transport hubs
- taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs) (from 23 September)
- shops and supermarkets
- hospitality venues, such as pubs and restaurants, except when eating or drinking (from 24 September)
- indoor shopping centres
- banks and building societies
- post offices
- museums
- galleries
- cinemas and theatres
- places of worship
- public libraries

People are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in any other enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet.

From 23 September, you will need to wear face coverings in taxis and private hire vehicles. You will also need to wear face coverings in hospitality venues, when you are not eating or drinking. From 24 September, in retail and hospitality settings, staff will be required to wear face covering as well

You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a legitimate reason not to. This includes (but is not limited to):

- children under 11
- because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- to communicate with someone who relies on lip reading
- to avoid harm or injury; to identify yourself
- to eat or drink if necessary

Who is allowed to go to work?

To help contain the virus, office workers who can work effectively from home should do so over the winter. Where an employer, in consultation with their employee, judges an employee can carry out their normal duties from home they should do so.

Public sector employees working in essential services, including education settings, should continue to go into work

where necessary. Anyone else who cannot work from home should go to their place of work.

The risk of transmission can be substantially reduced if COVID-19 Secure guidelines are followed closely. Extra consideration should be given to those people at higher risk.

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable, you can go to work as long as the workplace is Covid-19 Secure but should carry on working from home wherever possible.

Anyone with symptoms of coronavirus should not attend work. They should immediately self-isolate at home and get a test. Their household members should self-isolate too. There is specific guidance for those showing symptoms.

Will a face covering stop me getting COVID-19?

The evidence suggests that face coverings can help us protect each other and reduce the spread of the disease from someone who is suffering from coronavirus, but not showing symptoms. That is why it is important to wear a face covering on public transport and it is required by law. **It is currently mandatory to wear face coverings** in shops, supermarkets, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies, post offices, indoor transport hubs, museums, galleries, cinemas, places of worship, and public libraries

Can I be fined for breaking the rules?

The new measures mean police can break up groups larger than six.

Members of the group can be fined if they fail to follow the rules or wear a mask where specified. From Monday 28 September the fine for a first offence will double to £200. Repeat offenders will have their fines doubled for successive offences, up to a maximum of £3,200.

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| Name | Garry Cook |
| Role | Head of HSE |

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