

National Measures released on 22 September

Further national measures were introduced by the government as a response to the recent coronavirus situation in England. Here is a summary:

Important:

HANDS - Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.

FACE - Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where you will come into contact with people.

SPACE - Stay 2 metres apart where possible.

Please note that areas under lockdown may have additional measures.

Face Coverings

- From 23 September, customers in private hire vehicles and taxis must wear face coverings.
- Customers in restaurants and shops must wear face coverings, except when seated at a table to eat or drink. From 24 September, staff working in restaurants and shops will also be required to wear face coverings.
- If you need to access close contact services, you must wear face coverings. It will become a law on 24 September.
- Public transport workers and taxi drivers will continue to be advised to wear face coverings.

Mandatory Self Isolation

From 28 September, people in England will be required by law to self-isolate if they test positive or are contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Anyone breaking the rules will be subject to a fine of up to £10,000.

Support is available for people on low incomes who are unable to work while self-isolating through the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment

Working from home

Anyone who can effectively work from home should do so over the winter.

Weddings

From 28 September, weddings and civil partnership ceremonies will be restricted to a maximum of 15 people. Other life events will be subject to the 'rule of six' limits (see below), except funerals. A maximum of 15 people is allowed for a sit down reception but different households must be socially distanced—if you are not wearing masks, you must stay 2m apart from others; if you are wearing masks and the venue has good ventilation, you should face away from each other at 1m distance.

For residents in Bolton, please note that weddings and funerals are restricted to a maximum of 6 people. Anyone living outside Greater Manchester should check for any special rules imposed by the government.

The 'rule of six' means that by law, you cannot have social gatherings of more than six people (indoors and outdoors). Also, you must not mix households at home or indoors, otherwise you may be fined.

Businesses

- These venues must be closed between 10pm and 5am:
 - Businesses selling food and drinks: cafes, bars, pubs, restaurants (From 24 September, if you offer takeaway service, your shop must be closed at 10pm but the delivery services can continue after 10pm.)
 - Entertainment and leisure venues: social clubs, casinos, bowling alleys, amusement arcades, indoor leisure centres or facilities, bingo halls, funfairs, theme parks, adventure parks and activities
- Businesses will need to display the official NHS QR code posters so that customers can 'check-in' at different premises using this option. This app will be available nationally from 24 September.
- From 28 September, businesses and organisations will face stricter rules to make their premises COVID Secure. Otherwise, they may be subject to fines of up to £10,000.