



Coronavirus – update 12

This Notice provides an update following the [Government announcement](#) of new national restrictions from 00:01 on Thursday 5 November. The Notice also provides an update on driver assessments, vehicle licensing, details of health, wellbeing and financial support resources available to licensees.

This Notice supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, TPH Notices [16/20](#), [13/20](#), [11/20](#), [10/20](#), [09/20 \(Consolidation\)](#) and [08/20](#), all of which contain information and practical advice for licensees relating to coronavirus, including important information on personal and vehicle hygiene as well as face coverings.

The Government has also provided specific [guidance for taxi and private hire services](#) and [transport operators](#), that is relevant to all licensees. We will continue to monitor this guidance and will update licensees if relevant updates are published.

We encourage all licensees to continue to observe the Government's personal hygiene and cleaning protocols, in particular – Hands. Face. Space:

- **hands** – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- **face** – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with other people
- **space** – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)

Licensees should also continue to familiarise themselves with updated [Government](#) and [NHS](#) guidance and advice.

New National Restrictions

As a result of coronavirus cases rising rapidly across the whole of the UK and in order to reduce the spread of infection the Government has implemented national lockdown restrictions.

From 00:01 on Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December:

- People will be required to stay at home, except for specific purposes
- Gathering with people you do not live with is not allowed
- Certain businesses and venues will be closed

Full details of the national lockdown restrictions are provided here:

www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#businesses-and-venues

The information outlines the specific details of the measures, including a list of exemptions and what to do in certain situations. Licensees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the guidance.

This Government guidance also includes details of businesses that are permitted to stay open, following COVID-19 Secure guidelines, including petrol stations, car repair and MOT services, bicycle shops, and **taxi and vehicle hire businesses**.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

Some people are defined as [Clinically Extremely Vulnerable \(CEV\)](#) to Coronavirus. If you are in this group, you will previously have received a letter from the NHS or from your GP telling you this. You may have been advised to shield in the past.

The Government has confirmed that it will be further clarifying who is defined as CEV and will be issuing new letters imminently to those people. These letters will contain guidance to help protect those affected from coronavirus.

In the meantime, any licensee that has a condition that is listed in the [Government guidance](#) is advised not to attend work and to await receipt of the new letter.

Anyone living with someone who is CEV can continue to work, in accordance with the general advice and regulations set out in the [national restrictions guidance from 5 November](#).

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We are aware that, during these extraordinary and worrying times, licensees are facing challenges. We continue to encourage licensees to prioritise their mental and physical wellbeing. It is important to be self-aware and spot any early warning signs of feeling mentally unwell and to seek help and support at the earliest opportunity.

The following support services are available to all licensees and some now offer coronavirus-specific advice:

- GOV.UK – [Find out what support you can get if you're affected by coronavirus](#)
- [Rethink Mental Illness](#)
- [Mind](#)
- [Citizen's Advice](#)
- [CALM](#)
- [Stress Management Society \(SMS\)](#)

Please also visit our dedicated [Taxi and Private Hire Health and Wellbeing webpage](#) for further information, advice and guidance.

Financial Support

The Government has announced a series of financial support packages to those affected by the coronavirus restrictions. The Government is increasing its support to the self-employed over the coming months and ensuring people get paid faster than previously planned.

For more information, check your eligibility and to make an application [visit the gov.uk website](#).

Companies can also apply for financial support from the Government. The Coronavirus [Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#) provides financial support to smaller businesses affected by coronavirus and the [Bounce Back Loan Scheme \(BBLS\)](#) enables smaller businesses to access finance more quickly during the coronavirus outbreak. The deadlines for applications for both loans have recently been extended until 31 January 2021.

The government has also produced [guidance for what to do if you're self-employed and getting less work or no work](#) which licensees may find useful.

Driver Assessments

In line with the Government guidance and the approach taken by other assessment bodies, we will not be providing Knowledge of London or Topographical assessments during the lockdown period (Thursday 5 November to Wednesday 2 December).

We are now contacting applicants who have appointments during this period to reschedule. We ask that licensees do not travel to any of our assessment centres which will be closed from 5 November until 2 December 2020.

Vehicle Licensing Inspection Sites

The six vehicle licensing inspection sites will remain open. We are aware of the increased level of demand for inspection slots at the moment. We have increased capacity at all inspection centres and will continue to keep this under review. If further measures are required, we will set these out in a separate TPH Notice.

Please do make every effort to stay safe and well.

Graham Robinson

**General Manager
Taxi and Private Hire
Transport for London**

5 November 2020

For previous Notices and additional licensing information, please visit tfl.gov.uk/tph