



Coronavirus – update 15

This Notice provides an update on [TPH Notice 20/20](#), following confirmation that London has been placed under Tier 4 restrictions, as part of the Government's approach to tackling coronavirus transmission.

The Notice also contains information on driver assessment centres and vehicle licensing inspection sites, Government guidance on Christmas, the coronavirus support initiative and details of financial, health and wellbeing support that is available to licensees.

This Notice supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, TPH Notices [19/20](#), [18/20](#), [17/20](#), [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 prioritising mental and physical wellbeing, personal and vehicle hygiene as well as face coverings.

We will continue to monitor Government guidance, including specific [guidance for taxi and private hire services](#) issued by the Department for Transport, and will update licensees as appropriate.

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

Tier 4 restrictions

From Sunday 20 December, all 32 London boroughs and the City of London are subject to [Tier 4 restrictions](#).

Tier 4 restrictions are also in place for a number of other areas just outside London and in the southeast. Further details are provided here: www.gov.uk/guidance/full-list-of-local-restriction-tiers-by-area.

In a Tier 4 area you must not:

- Leave or be outside of your home except for where you have a specific purpose, or a '[reasonable excuse](#)'. A reasonable excuse includes work (when you cannot work from home).
- Meet other people indoors, including over the Christmas period, unless you live with them, or they are part of your existing support bubble.
- Outdoors, you can only meet one person from another household.
- These rules will **not** be relaxed for Christmas.

Current Government advice for taxi and private hire vehicles providing services in Tier 4 areas is they can continue to operate as normal.

Full details of the restrictions can be found here: www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know

As the rate of transmission of the virus is rising, we urge drivers to remain vigilant and to continue to familiarise themselves with, and follow, Government guidance.

As set out in previous TPH Notices, taxi and private hire drivers are expected to wear face coverings **at all times** when in their taxi or private hire vehicle. This remains the case, unless you have a valid exemption. This is an important safety measure to protect licensees, passengers and wider society and is now even more important in the context of the rising number of coronavirus cases.

We have also produced an informative video that provides guidance on how to clean your vehicle after each passenger has been safely dropped off and at the end of your shift. The short video can be viewed [here](#).

All licensed taxi and private hire drivers should take a few minutes to familiarise themselves with the video and follow these steps to ensure the highest possible safety standards are being met.

Further information on vehicle cleanliness and general advice on keeping safe during the pandemic can also be found at: www.tfl.gov.uk/infofor/taxis-and-privatehire/existing-licensee/coronavirus-information-for-licencees

Changes to Christmas period guidance

The Government had announced significant changes to its guidance on travel and the formation of Christmas bubbles.

Details are provided here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family

Details of TfL services and when they will and won't be operating over the festive period (when demand for TPH services may be greater) are provided [here](#) and [here](#).

Driver assessment centres

All driver assessment centres, including Baker Street, will be **closed until further notice**.

We are in the process of contacting a limited number of applicants who were due to attend our Baker Street assessment centre from Monday 21 December.

If you do have an assessment booked in the next week – **please do not attend**. We will contact you to re-schedule.

Vehicle inspection centres

All driver vehicle licensing inspection sites will remain open (aside from planned closures over the festive period), with appropriate safety measures in place including: social distancing markers, hand sanitiser stations, personal protective equipment for staff and limits on contact between staff and customers who will be asked to wear face coverings.

Arrangements for both the driver assessment centres and vehicle inspection sites will be kept under review in light of future Government guidance.

Coronavirus support initiative

To help ensure the safety of licensees and passengers, we have been providing complimentary packages of face masks, hand sanitiser and stickers with coronavirus-specific information to be displayed in vehicles.

Further information is provided in [TPH Notice 19/20](#).

Financial support

The Government has a number of financial support packages for those affected by the coronavirus restrictions, including increased support for the self-employed.

If you have previously claimed a grant via the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS), the online service to see if you are eligible for a third grant is now available.

To make a claim for the third grant your business must have had a new or continuing impact from coronavirus between 1 November 2020 and 29 January 2021, which you reasonably believe will have resulted in a significant reduction in your profits.

The third taxable grant is worth 80% of your average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £7,500 in total. If you are eligible, you must make your claim for the third grant on or before 29 January 2021.

For full information on the financial support available, to check your eligibility and to make an application, visit the [gov.uk website](#).

Mental Health and Wellbeing

People can find Christmas a difficult time and this year will be even more so.

This year has been incredibly challenging and worrying and 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 and details of financial support that is available to licensees.

Please do stay safe and well.

Graham Robinson

**General Manager
Taxi and Private Hire
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For previous Notices and additional licensing information, please visit tfl.gov.uk/tph