

## **TIER UPDATE 10 - 14 September 2021**

(The TIER updates are not as frequent now.)

### **10 September**

#### **Vaccine certification plans approved by Scottish Parliament**

On 9 September Scottish Parliament [approved the use of Coronavirus vaccination certificates](#) to enter some events and higher risk venues. The Scheme will come into effect from 1 October. It aims to reduce risk while maximising peoples' ability to keep open certain settings and events where transmission is a higher risk and encouraging uptake of the vaccine. From September 30, people will be able to use the NHS Scotland Covid Status App which also has a QR code, to access venues where certification is required. From this date the current downloadable PDF function will be switched off. Anyone unable or unwilling to use the App can request a secure uneditable paper record of vaccination, with enhanced security features such as thermodynamic ink to prevent forgery. The verifier app will be called 'NHS Scotland Covid Check'.

Proof of vaccination will be required to enter:

- nightclubs
- adult entertainment venues
- unseated indoor live events, with more than 500 people in the audience
- unseated outdoor live events, with more than 4,000 people in the audience
- any event, of any nature, which has more than 10,000 people in attendance

Staff at venues affected will be able to download a "verifier app" to a smartphone or device from next week, ahead of the launch, which will allow digital checks on the certification status of those attending. Guidance will be provided for venues on how to use the app, along with options to integrate it into their own systems as the source code is open. Under 18s and adults who are ineligible for vaccination will be exempt. There are currently no plans to introduce certification for the wider hospitality industry but this will be kept under review over the autumn and winter months.

#### **Northern Ireland Executive agree modest relaxations from Friday 10 September**

On Monday 6 September, the [Northern Ireland Executive](#) agreed a number of modest relaxations to the current Coronavirus Regulations. The following changes will come into effect at 5pm on Friday 10 September 2021:

- The maximum number of people who may meet indoors in a domestic setting is increased to 15 from up to 4 households.
- The current requirement for table service at hospitality settings will be eased, both indoors and outdoors, to enable customers to go to the bar to place orders or pay. However, in indoor settings, customers will still be required to return to their table in order to consume their food or drink. Because there is less risk in outdoor settings, the prohibition on standing to consume food and drink outdoors will be removed.
- The prohibition on movement and standing to allow customers to play darts, pool, gaming machines etc. will be removed.
- The hospitality sector will also need to consider how best to manage the movement and queueing of customers to mitigate risk. In addition, the requirement to wear face coverings while not seated indoors will continue.

- Indoor, live performance events (concerts and gigs) no longer require tickets to be purchased in advance or allocated seating. However, customers must still be seated and the requirement to record contact details for all attendees continues.
- In addition, the current restriction on dancing in indoor settings is removed insofar as it applies to post wedding and civil partnership celebrations.
- While the message to work from home where possible and appropriate remains, the Executive encourage employers to plan for a return to the workplace.

### **CMA publishes recommendations to improve PCR testing market**

The CMA has [published advice to the UK Government](#) on ways to make the PCR testing market work better for consumers.

A number of recommendations were made, including:

- Creating a one-stop shop list of quality, approved test providers by significantly improving the basic standards to qualify for inclusion and remaining on the GOV.UK list.
- Introducing a comprehensive monitoring and enforcement programme to ensure providers on the GOV.UK list meet these basic standards and rules, and swiftly removing and sanctioning those firms that don't.
- Improving the provider listings on GOV.UK so consumers get the information they need to compare providers properly and find the best deals for them.
- Developing the NHS Test and Trace travel test as a benchmark for quality and price to drive higher standards and more competition across the sector.
- Monitoring prices and costs on an ongoing basis, in case price reductions are not seen on the back of other measures.

Although this advice has been provided at the request of the UK Government, it has the potential to improve the market for consumers across the UK nations where private testing for international travel is allowed. In addition to providing advice to the UK Government, the CMA is already using its powers to act where it can. On 25 August, it published an [open letter to all PCR test providers](#) warning them to stay on the right side of consumer law.

### **Headline scheme rules for the Live Events Reinsurance Scheme have been published by DCMS**

The headline rules for the Live Events Reinsurance Scheme have been published [here](#). Full scheme rules will be available on this page in due course.

### **VisitEngland Consumer Sentiment Tracker**

Wave 38 of the [VisitEngland Consumer Sentiment Tracker](#) report is now available. The fieldwork for this was conducted between 23-27 August. The measures have remained very stable this wave, with minor fluctuations in mood and sentiment towards COVID. However, intent to take a trip, confidence in a trip going ahead and destination, accommodation and trip type all remain very similar. The next report will be the final wave (39) of this phase of the research, which currently takes place once a fortnight. VisitEngland hopes to continue the research on a monthly basis.

### **13 September - Tourism Alliance Coronavirus Update**

- \* Tomorrow's Winter Plan

The Prime Minister is expected to announce the Government's Winter Plan for Coronavirus Control tomorrow. In a press release yesterday, Number 10 pre-briefed that the Prime Minister is expected

to repeal powers in England that are no longer necessary including:

- \* Powers to close-down sectors of the economy, such as business premises, or apply restrictions to events and gatherings.
- \* Powers that disrupt education, enabling temporary closure or restricting access to schools, colleges, and childcare.
- \* Powers that extend time limits for urgent warrants. Powers to detain infectious people.

Powers expected to be retained includes

- \* giving sick pay to those isolating
- \* directing schools to remain open
- \* requiring someone to isolate if they test positive
- \* helping the NHS to get the emergency resource it needs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-set-out-next-steps-in-covid-response>

- \* Impact of Covid on Household Spending

ONS has published research on the impact of Covid on household spending. The key findings from the research are:

- \* Households reduced their spending by an average of £109.10 (19%) a week
- \* Higher income households, who tended to spend more on travel, and were more likely to be able to work from home, saw a larger drop in spending than low income households.
- \* Reduced spending on restaurants and hotels, recreation and culture and transport contributed most to the decline in overall spending for all income groups.
- \* Spending on holidays abroad accounted for half of spending falls in the highest income households
- \* 42% of workers on lower incomes reporting a decrease in earnings, compared with 31% for those on the highest incomes.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/articles/weeklyhouseholdspendingfellbymorethan100onaverageduringthecoronaviruspandemic/2021-09-13>

- \* VB Sentiment Tracker

Please see attached a copy of the latest wave of VB's sentiment tracker. Some of the interesting findings are that:

- \* Only 49% of people think that things will return 'close to normal' by the beginning of next summer
- \* Less than 60% of people think that a domestic holiday will be able to take place this autumn/winter
- \* 25% of people say that they will take fewer domestic breaks between now and the end of the year
- \* 38% of people say that they will take fewer overseas breaks between now and the end of the year
- \* Kickstart Scheme Guidance Consolidated

The guidance on the Kickstart Scheme has been updated and consolidated the guidance on Kickstart Scheme into a new series of documents make it easier for businesses to undertake and navigate. The new guidance documents are:

Kickstart Scheme for employers

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/kickstart-scheme-for-employers>

How the Kickstart Scheme works

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-the-kickstart-scheme-works>

Getting young people into the Kickstart Scheme jobs

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-young-people-into-the-kickstart-scheme-jobs>

Manage your Kickstart Scheme funding

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-your-kickstart-scheme-funding>

Sign in to manage your Kickstart Scheme vacancies

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sign-in-to-manage-your-kickstart-scheme-vacancies>

Apply for a Kickstart Scheme grant through a Kickstart gateway

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-kickstart-scheme-grant-through-a-kickstart-gateway>

## 14 September

We hope this email finds you well. Please see an update following the announcement of the Autumn and Winter Plan by the UK Government.

### Autumn and Winter Plan for England

In the House of Commons this afternoon Health Secretary Sajid Javid set out [the Autumn and Winter Plan for England](#). This was followed by a press briefing by Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressing the public. The plan sets out a Plan A scenario and outlines a Plan B contingency plan for England that would only be enacted if the data suggests that further actions are necessary to protect the NHS.

#### The 5 pillars outlined for 'Plan A' include;

1. **Building our defences through pharmaceutical interventions:** including maximising vaccine uptake among those who are eligible and not taken up the offer yet, offering booster doses to those who received vaccinations in phase 1 of the vaccine programme, offering a first dose to those aged 12-15. Antivirals and therapeutics are already being used, and teams are researching further drugs that may assist.
2. **Identifying and isolating positive cases to limit transmission:** PCR testing for symptomatic and contacts of cases will be available free of charge. Regular asymptomatic testing will also continue, focused on those who are not vaccinated or are on front line settings. Contact tracing will continue. Support will remain in place for those forced to self-isolate.
3. **Supporting the NHS and Social Care** – managing pressures and recovering services. Linked to the announcement of further funding announced last week to clear the backlog of appointments.

4. **Advising people on how to protect themselves and others** - For businesses the Government will continue to provide up-to-date [Working Safely guidance](#) on how employers can reduce the risks in their workplace. They are encouraging the public to let fresh air in when meeting indoors, wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed settings, getting tested and self isolating, staying home if they feel unwell, washing hands regularly and using the NHS COVID-19 app.
5. **Pursuing an international approach** – playing a part in the global effort towards vaccination, and keeping strong defence at the border. The Government will shortly set out a revised framework for international travel, in advance of the next formal checkpoint review, with a deadline of 1 October.

### **‘Plan B’**

If the data suggests the NHS is likely to come under unsustainable pressure, the Government has prepared a Plan B for England. The Government’s Plan B prioritises measures which can help control transmission of the virus while seeking to minimise economic and social impacts. This includes:

- Communicating clearly and urgently to the public that the level of risk has increased, and with it the need to behave more cautiously.
- Introducing mandatory vaccine-only COVID-status certification in certain settings.
- Legally mandating face coverings in certain settings.

If Plan B is implemented, at that point the NHS COVID Pass will change to display full vaccination only (exemptions will continue to apply). The Government expects that mandatory vaccine-only certification would be introduced for visitors to the following venues:

- All nightclubs;
- Indoor, crowded settings with 500 or more attendees where those attendees are likely to be in close proximity to people from other households, such as music venues or large receptions;
- Outdoor, crowded settings with 4,000 or more attendees where those attendees are likely to be in close proximity to people from other households, such as outdoor festivals; and
- Any settings with 10,000 or more attendees, such as large sports and music stadia.

There are some settings that will be exempt from requirements to use the NHS COVID Pass, including communal worship, wedding ceremonies, funerals and other commemorative events, protests and mass participation sporting events.

The Government would seek to give businesses at least one week’s notice before mandatory vaccine certification came into force.

[Read the full plan.](#)

### **Other updates**

- The de Bois review of Destination Management Organisations in England, commissioned by DCMS has been published. The review examined and assessed how Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) across England are funded and structured, and how they perform their roles, in order to establish whether there may be a more efficient and effective model for supporting English tourism at the regional level, and if so what that model may be. [Read the full report and recommendations here.](#)
- A [wider choice of test providers](#) will be available for people returning to Wales from overseas to book PCR tests from 21 September. The change comes as new standards and

spot checks are being introduced, which will help to address long-standing concerns and issues about the market for PCR tests for all travellers returning to the UK.