

UPDATE 5 November 2021

(The TIER updates are not as frequent now.)

Tourism Alliance Update

- **New Minimum Standards for Test Providers**

In response to all the problems associated with companies providing covid tests to people entering the UK, the Government has issued new guidance on the minimum standards that private sector providers of Covid Tests have to adhere to from 12th Nov

Here is the guidance related to providers of tests as part of the Test to Release programme for international visitors.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/testing-to-release-for-international-travel-minimum-standards-for-testing/minimum-standards-for-private-sector-providers-of-covid-19-testing-for-testing-to-release-for-international-travel>

And here is the guidance related to Day 2 and Day 8 PCR testing for international arrivals

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/testing-on-day-2-and-day-8-for-international-arrivals>

While the new standards are not directly relevant to tourism businesses, this is useful information for businesses to pass on to customers regarding what they should expect from their testing company.

- **Budget Debate - Tourism**

I've been meaning to include a link to the Budget Debate where the Shadow Tourism Minister Alex Sobel, raised the issue of the lack of announcements on initiatives to support and rebuild the UK tourism industry including:

- Extending the VAT reduction
- Changing the eligibility criteria for RHL business rates support

His contribution starts at Column 844

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-02/debates/D7226608-7FEC-48EA-B4C8-5F4486A89BAA/BudgetResolutions>

- **Social Impacts Of Coronavirus**

The ONS has published the latest wave of its ongoing research on the social impacts of coronavirus. The main findings are:

- 83% of adults reported they wore a face covering when outside their home in the past seven days
- 39% reported they always or often maintained social distancing when outside their home
- 41% reported friends and family had not come into their homes in the past seven days.
- The proportion of adults who reported self-isolating in the past seven days remained stable at 3%
- 70% reported travelling to work at some point in the past seven days (unchanged from the previous period)

- 33% reported working from home at some point in the past seven days (30% in the previous period)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/5november2021>

- **Stop COVID-19 Hanging Around**

DHSC has launched a new public Covid campaign today called “Stop Covid hanging around”.

The campaign consists of

- An explainer film demonstrates impact of ventilation on reducing COVID-19 levels
- Advice to open windows for 10 minutes each hour when socialising indoors

This campaign follows new research reveals how only a third of the public understand importance of ventilation (an also that the Government is increasingly nervous about the Covid rate with winter now here).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-to-stop-covid-19-hanging-around>

- **R Number And Growth Rate**

Some good news to end the week – this week’s R Number is 0.9 to 1.1 and the growth rate is -1% to +2%. This is down from last week and back to the levels we saw in mid October.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>