

Latest guidance on COVID-19: documents produced by Scottish Government

March 2022

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/#educationandchildren>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/>

<https://www.gov.scot/news/update-on-covid-19-regulations/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/test-protect-transition-plan/>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-individuals-with-possible-coronavirus-infection>

Update on COVID-19 regulations

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Part of

Face covering rules to change.

Legal requirements to wear face coverings on public transport and most indoor public settings will be replaced with guidance in the coming weeks, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced today.

From Monday the legal requirement to wear a face covering in places of worship or while attending a marriage ceremony, civil partnership registration, funeral or commemorative event will end.

The requirement to wear face coverings in other indoor areas such as retail spaces and public transport will become guidance on 18 April.

The most recent ONS Covid infection survey - for the week ending 20 March - indicated that one in 11 people in Scotland had Covid, with daily case figures suggesting case numbers are high but may be stabilising.

The First Minister told Parliament that the very high level of infection and ongoing pressure within the NHS had been taken into account when making the decision, and that data will continue to be assessed closely.

She said: "We will, of course, continue to encourage the wearing of face coverings in certain indoor places, especially where significant numbers of people are present.

"This phased approach strikes, I think, a sensible balance between our desire to remove this one remaining legal measure, and the common sense need for continued caution - not least for the sake of the NHS - while this wave of infection does subside.

"I recognise that face coverings are an inconvenience. However, given all the sacrifice of the past two years, and in view of the current pressure on the NHS, I believe the vast majority of people will accept

that for a further two weeks this is a proportionate precautionary measure while we pass the peak of this latest wave. It also of course provides some additional protection to those who are most at risk from the virus.”

Background

It was confirmed earlier this month that people without COVID-19 symptoms will no longer be asked to take regular lateral flow tests from 18 April. The change forms part of the Test and Protect Transition Plan, which sets out how testing will become more targeted, with the aim of reducing serious harm from COVID-19.

The changes to Test and Protect mean that from 18 April:

- most people without symptoms will no longer be asked to take COVID-19 tests
- free lateral flow devices (LFDs) for the purposes of twice weekly routine testing will no longer be available for the general population given the changing advice, but will continue to be free for any purpose for which testing continues to be advised – for clinical care, for health and social care workers and for people visiting vulnerable individuals in care homes or hospitals
- until the end of April, people with symptoms should still isolate and get a PCR test
- vaccinated close contacts of someone with COVID-19 should continue to test daily for seven days with LFDs

People who have symptoms of COVID-19 will still be able to book PCR tests in the usual way until 30 April. From that date, test sites will close and people with symptoms will no longer be advised that they need to seek a test. The public health advice for people who feel unwell will be to stay at home until they feel better, to reduce the risk of infecting other people.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Advice for workplaces

- [COVID-19 restrictions are being replaced by public health advice](#)
- [Complying with general health and safety law](#)
- [RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19](#)
- [Advice from public health bodies and other government departments](#)
- [Protecting those who may be at higher risk](#)
- [Vaccinations](#)

COVID-19 restrictions are being replaced by public health advice

COVID-19 will remain a public health issue, and guidance for workplaces is being replaced with [public health advice](#).

You can check the latest position and timescales for the nation you are working in:

- [England](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)

HSE no longer requires every business to consider COVID-19 in their risk assessment or to have specific measures in place. There is a requirement to protect those who will [come into contact with the virus](#) due to their work activity.

You can find advice for [people who may be at higher risk](#) such as those who are immunosuppressed.

There is currently a specific public health requirement for a risk assessment and reasonable measures in [Wales](#) but this is not regulated by HSE.

Complying with general health and safety law

Employers must, as always, comply with the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 for [welfare facilities](#). We have guidance on [providing sufficient general ventilation](#) in workplaces.

Construction sites must provide adequate facilities in line with the [Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015](#).

People who come into contact with COVID-19 due to their work activity

Under [COSHH Regulations](#), employers must protect workers who come into contact with COVID-19:

- directly through their work, for example in researching the virus in laboratories
- due to their work activity, such as health and social care workers caring for infectious patients

In these cases, employers must still do a risk assessment and implement control measures.

COSHH does not cover situations where:

- one employee catches a respiratory infection from another
- a member of the public has infected an employee with coronavirus through general transmission in the workplace

You can find guidance on [infections at work](#) and [health and social care](#).

Talking with workers

Although HSE will no longer require COVID-19 control measures, employers must continue to consult workers and their representatives on any changes they make that might affect health and safety.

You can find guidance on [consulting and involving your workers](#).

RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19

There is guidance on the circumstances [when you should make a report](#) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

Advice from public health bodies and other government departments

COVID-19 remains a public health issue and there is public health advice that businesses can use to reduce the risk.

Please refer to the relevant guidance for the country you are working in:

- [England](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)

Protecting those who may be at higher risk

People who are immunosuppressed

There is guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on [protecting immunosuppressed people](#).

People previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable

You can also find DHSC guidance for [people previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19](#).

[Wales](#) and [Scotland](#) have separate advice for groups of workers who may be at higher risk.

Vaccinations

The NHS leads the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) programme.

There is Acas advice on [getting the coronavirus vaccine for work](#).

Separate guidance applies for the vaccination rollout programmes by the NHS in [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#).

Other advice

Acas has more [advice for employers and workers on COVID-19](#).

Page last reviewed: 31 March 2022

Next review due: 30 April 2022