

24 September 2020

Dear DMO Partner,

The [Prime Minister Boris Johnson made a statement](#) to the House of Commons on Tuesday which outlined what we must all do to stem the rising number of Coronavirus cases.

Business meetings of up to 30 remain permitted - Meetings of up to 30 people indoors are allowed in permitted venues if social distancing can be maintained and the venue can demonstrate it has followed the COVID-19 guidance. If permitted venues have multiple, separate meeting facilities, **these can be hired out simultaneously for separate meetings/events if social distancing can be maintained (2M or 1M+)**, groups can be kept separate, and the venue can demonstrate it has followed the COVID-19 guidance.

In summary Tuesday's new measures included:

- From **Thursday 24 September all pubs, bars, and restaurants must operate a table service only** (except for takeaways)
- Also, from Thursday, **all hospitality venues must close at 10:00pm**. Takeaways should also close, but they can continue to provide delivery services after 10:00pm
- The **requirement to wear face coverings** has been extended to include staff in retail, all users of taxis/private hire and to staff and customers in indoor hospitality with the exception of when seated at a table to eat or drink.
- In retail, leisure, tourism and hospitality settings, the **Government's COVID-19 secure guidelines will become legal obligations**. Businesses will be fined and can be closed if they breach the rules.
- From **Monday 28 September a maximum of 15 people will be able to attend wedding ceremonies and receptions**. Up to 30 will still be able to attend funerals.
- **Business events, and large sports events, will not be able to reopen from 1 October as intended**.
- Office workers who can work from home have been asked to do so. In professions where this is not possible, people should continue to go into their workplace.
- The rule of six will be extended to all adult indoor team sports.

[Guidance on when to wear a face covering](#) and the exemptions. DCMS has also shared some clarifications on face coverings – a visor does not count as a face covering - "a face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth" and "must securely fit round the side of the face". Also in shops employees need to wear masks even if they are behind a screen.

Yours sincerely



Kerrin MacPhie
Head of Business Events