

Dear Business,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, as of Monday 19th July England has entered Step 4 thus easing COVID-19 restrictions. With the increased freedoms there is now an increased emphasis on individuals remaining vigilant and taking steps to reduce their own personal risk. We are now all responsible for reducing the spread of COVID-19.

While there are now very few legal restrictions, individuals are urged to do their bit by:

- Wearing a mask where you can, especially in confined spaces and public transport
- Meeting outside and maintain social distancing where appropriate and possible.
- Continuing to wash your hands thoroughly and regularly.
- Getting tested if you feel unwell. COVID-19 symptoms include a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
- Continuing with asymptomatic testing twice weekly.

This will help protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Twice Weekly Rapid/Lateral Flow Testing

One of the easiest and most effective ways you and your business can do this is by conducting twice weekly rapid/lateral flow tests. The NHS still recommends this as an important measure in slowing the spread and reducing the infection rate. Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus don't have symptoms, which means they could be spreading the virus in workplaces without knowing. Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately, breaking chains of transmission; helping businesses stay open and everybody maintain a more normal life. Even if you have been vaccinated you should continue to get tested twice weekly as you can still pass on the virus.

Everybody can get free test kits from a local pharmacy or [order a test kit](#) online to be delivered straight to their door.

In addition, there are two local test sites where individuals can collect test kits. Site staff can also conduct an assisted test to teach you how to correctly conduct a test:

- Bolton Arena, Arena Approach, Horwich, BL6 6LB, Monday to Friday 8am – 15:30pm
- Victoria Hall, 37-39 Knowsley Street, BL1 2AS - 7 days a week, 9am – 5pm

Directorate of Public Health



Both sites require no booking for individuals but also accept block bookings for businesses, so the whole workforce can be tested. To arrange a business block booking for either site, call Diane on 07968 474888

Do not use a rapid lateral flow test or go to a test site if you or your employees have symptoms. Anyone with symptoms should order a PCR test immediately and self-isolate. PCR tests are easy to [order or book online](#).

Self-Isolation

If you test positive for COVID-19 you must stay at home for at least 10 full days in order to prevent passing the virus on to others. You can pass the virus to others, even if you are showing no symptoms.

You also need to self-isolate if you are informed you are a close contact. Even if you are fully vaccinated and/or test negative you must still complete your 10 days of self-isolation. This rule will change for those fully vaccinated on 16th August.

You may be eligible for self-isolation support from the government. For more information [click here](#).

For further information about testing please visit our [FAQs](#).

Vaccination

With the easing of restrictions, becoming vaccinated is more important than ever. Across the UK, over 87% of adults have received their first dose, with over 66% receiving both doses. Please accept your vaccine when it is offered to you as it is our best chance of returning to normal life. There are mobile vaccination centres across the borough, [click here](#) for the most up to date information.

Return to the Workplace

All businesses are now allowed to reopen, and restrictions on social distancing have been lifted. As such, the government is no longer instructing people to work from home. Instead, it is recommended and encouraged that there is a gradual return to the workplace over the summer.

In September, the Government will review its guidance regarding COVID precautions.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us with our fight against COVID.

Yours sincerely

Business Bolton
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Directorate of Public Health

Bolton Blackrod Farnworth Horwich Kearsley Little Lever South Turton Westhoughton ...all in the family

