

Covid-19 Update 18/11/2021

Whilst many of the legal restrictions relating to Covid-19 have been relaxed, employers must remember that they still have a legal duty to maintain their premises as Covid-Secure and to follow UK Government guidance. This will be particularly relevant as winter approaches especially as Covid infection rates are running at high levels, although generally they are currently on a downward trajectory. Hospitalisations are currently running at about 25% of the last peak but there are still in excess of 200 Covid-related deaths most days of the week.

The latest Covid Updates from the Government include:

- As from 4am, 1 Nov 2021 all countries have now been removed from the travel red list (this is UK wide).
- Booster vaccines are now in place and available to anyone who is eligible if it has been 6 months since their 2nd dose (England).
- 1st doses of vaccination are now available for young people. All 12-15 year olds can now book their first vaccine.

Advice that remains:

- To let fresh air in if meeting indoors. People are advised to meet outdoors if they can.
- To wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed spaces where people come into contact with people they don't normally meet.
- To get tested and self-isolate if required.
- People should continue to get vaccinated.

Since the last update to staff:

- People who are fully vaccinated or are aged under 18 no longer need to self-isolate if they have had close contact with someone else who has Covid-19.
- The Bank has moved to keep all safety measures in place as advised by the Bank's Health & Safety Consultant, Quadriga.
- All hygiene posters and sanitisation products remain in place throughout the Bank and are freely available to staff and visitors.
- The Bank is currently still operating on a 3 day per week presence in the Bank with staff working the other 2 days from home unless they are unable to complete their tasks from home.
- The Bank continues to take proactive steps with those who display symptoms by advising them to get tested. Anyone reporting a positive test is advised to self-isolate in full accordance with the guidance. So far 2 members of staff have reported positive testing (most likely having contracted Covid from their children) and completed their self-isolation periods as requested. Subsequently, I believe we have not had any internal 'spread' of Covid.
- All staff and visitors to site continue to be required to complete a Covid Declaration form prior to entry on to the premises.

The Bank will continue to adhere to Government guidance and advice as it has done throughout the pandemic and advise staff and visitors of any steps to be taken accordingly.