

All Nations Control Overview – Living with COVID 19

9th January 2023

From the 1st May 2022 Scotland altered its isolation guidance following on from the 28th March 2022 when Wales ended the legal requirement to isolate if you test positive for COVID 19. This change initiated in England from the 24th February 2022. In addition, anybody that tests positive or is within close contact to a positive person is also no longer required to take daily lateral flow tests. The change in regulation will allow people who knowingly have COVID 19 to interact and engage socially potentially transmitting the virus to others.

As of October 2022, the changes implemented back in May have remained static and the control changes made in May remain relevant. Please see below for detail.

Control Alterations – All Nations

With the perceived health risk of contracting COVID 19 is now being at a sufficiently low level the following changes can be made to our control program:

Social Distancing: This control can be relaxed allowing for Associates to be seated at standard distances again as opposed to maintaining 2metres

Face Coverings: The regulated requirement to don face coverings has been removed in England. Face coverings are now optional for all Associates in all areas bringing this in line with current national guidance.

One Way Systems: These can be removed. They were introduced to lower the chance of over population in pinch points at the site. Due to social distancing controls being removed this control can be taken away. This includes the stickers on the floors reminding Associates to Social distance.

Vehicle Sharing: Reduced/controlled vehicle sharing was introduced to help maintain social distancing requirements in a confined space. With these isolation requirements removed it opens the opportunity to reintroduce standard practices in relation to sharing vehicles.

Temperature Testing: Daily temperature testing can be removed; however, sites should keep the testing unit available to test Associates that are feeling unwell. Associates that are not feeling well should not be at work.

Screens: Screens situated on customer facing desks are no longer deemed a requirement.

Controls remaining in situ

The following controls should remain in situ based in the benefits they bring to a safe working environment.

Ventilation: Having effective ventilation is good practice and should remain. The possibility of transmission of multiple diseases is lowered by having effective ventilation. The extent of which it is maximised should be considered. For example, fire doors propped open should now be assessed and closed reinstating fire risk control measures over COVID 19 transmission.

Capacity Limits: These exist on smaller spaces where multiple persons may gather (meeting rooms etc). These can now be relaxed/removed for the purpose of social distancing however consideration should still be made to not over occupy spaces. Sites should consider spaces such as sales offices and board rooms and

create a maximum occupancy for these spaces based on comfort as opposed to social distancing requirements.

Sanitisation: There is no requirement or rationale to remove hand sanitisation and surface sanitisation provisions and practices. This has been a positive step to help lower the passing of diseases/viruses (including COVID 19) through contact transmission. We must however continue to maintain hand sanitisation stations keeping them clean and lowering spillages.

Dealership Cleaning: The additional cleaning at sites is good practice and in turn should remain in situ from a hygiene perspective. The increased focus on high traffic areas and touch point will only help to lower the transmission of multiple viruses and illnesses.

Food and Drink Facilities: Hot water boilers will remain in situ removing the requirement to have kettles in the business. Customer facilities should still be touch free as per previous instructions.

Test Drives: The existing Test drive policy remains in place unchanged

Advice for Symptomatic Associates

It is expected that as a Group we still have the facility to identify and respond to COVID 19 outbreaks. In turn if an Associate is symptomatic, it will be suggested that they get tested. This will allow the tracking of that site to see if further Associates start showing symptoms and an outbreak occurs where people become ill.

As a responsible employer we are adopting an approach of requiring Associates to continue to if they have symptoms and if positive for COVID 19 to isolate from the business for 5days (following confirmation of a positive result). This is in line with Government guidelines and helps to protect others whilst at work. Full guidance can be found in the Isolation guidance document.

Fogging The number of positive cases has decreased dramatically due to reduced testing. If a symptomatic Associate tests positive reactive fogging can still occur if desired but its by no means a requirement.