

Prime Minister's 9th September Statement

Just after we sent Tourism Matters last week, the Prime Minister announced the new rule of six in England, plus there have been other Government updates relevant to tourism businesses, including the new NHS COVID-19 app, so we thought it pertinent to send out a second e-news this month.

In addition to the changes mentioned above, there is an opportunity for you to have your say on training needs via a short survey from Visit Kent and Kent Downs AONB as part of the Experience project. There is also still time for you to have your say on the Margate Town Deal, the survey deadline is Sunday 20th September..

If you know somebody who would like to read our e-news, please forward it on, or let them know they can register to receive it themselves on www.visitthetane.co.uk/tourismmatters

Government Advice

Further to the [Prime Minister's statement](#) on 9 September outlining the new rule of six in England, the official Government guidance for [working safely during COVID-19](#) has been updated. Additional specialised advice has also been updated, including the [Visitor Economy guidance](#) and [guidance for restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services](#).

The seven priority actions are:

1. **Complete a COVID-19 risk assessment.** Share it with all your staff. [Find out how to do a risk assessment.](#)
2. **Clean more often.** Increase how often you clean surfaces, especially those that are being touched a lot. Ask your staff and your customers to use hand sanitiser and wash their hands frequently.
3. **Ask your customers to wear face coverings** where required to do so by law. That is especially important if your customers are likely to be around people they do not normally meet. Some exemptions apply. [Check when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own.](#)
4. **Make sure everyone is social distancing.** Make it easy for everyone to do so by putting up signs or introducing a one-way system that your customers can follow. Enable people in the same party who do not live together to remain a safe distance apart.
5. **Increase ventilation** by keeping doors and windows open where possible and running ventilation systems at all times.
6. **Take part in NHS Test and Trace** by keeping a record of all your customers for 21 days. From Friday 18th September, this will be enforced in law. Some exemptions apply. Check '[Maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace](#)' for details.
7. **Turn people with coronavirus symptoms away.** If a staff member (or someone in their household) or a customer has a persistent cough, a high temperature or has lost their sense of taste or smell, they should be isolating.

The additional guidance for [restaurants, pub, bar or takeaway](#) and [visitor economy businesses](#) is available on [gov.uk](#).

Other updates to note include:

Meeting others safely during COVID-19

This [new guidance](#) provides details on social distancing, seeing friends and family and rules in other venues, it also outlines more details on the exemptions, including:

- Weddings, civil partnerships and funerals (up to 30 can attend)
- Education and training
- Work or voluntary/charitable services
- Some organised indoor and outdoor sports, physical activity and exercise classes
- Elite sporting competitions
- Youth groups or activities

The guidance also clarifies that COVID-19 secure venues can continue to host people up to their social distancing capacity but that no one can visit in a group of more than 6 (except for the exemptions and where the household (including bubble) is greater than 6)

So accommodation businesses, attractions, performance venues, coach operators, tour guides, pubs and restaurants, provided they are operating in accordance with the Government's COVID-19 safe guidelines, can continue as they are, provided that they make sure any individual party of visitors complies with the Rule of Six.

Frequently asked questions - what you can and can't do

The [frequently asked questions](#) have also been updated to support the new guidance, some points of relevance for tourism include:

- People can still go on holiday in England, the distance travelled will not be restricted but they should not go on holiday with people outside their household (including bubble) in a group larger than 6 people
- The guidance for someone who becomes unwell on holiday has not changed.

Other Government Updates

- [Businesses in England](#) required to close due to local lockdowns or targeted restrictions will now be able to receive grants worth up to £1,500 for every three weeks that they are closed.
- The Government has introduced a [new Kickstart Scheme](#) in Great Britain, a £2 billion fund to create 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24. Find out if your business can apply [here](#).
- The [Competition and Market Authority](#) (CMA) has issued a statement setting out the CMA's views on how the law operates in relation to contracts for wedding services affected by the coronavirus pandemic.
- The [advice for food businesses](#) has been updated with revised language in relation to self-isolation. The guidance encourages employers to enable workers to follow any advice to self-isolate and to support them when in isolation.

- The 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme has now closed. Restaurants and other food service businesses that have already registered can [submit a claim for reimbursement](#) until Wednesday 30th September 2020.
- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) has been updated with a new section added "[Work out your employee's usual hours and furloughed hours](#)", which explains how to calculate the number of working and furloughed hours for an employee who comes off furlough or flexible furlough partway through a claim period. Employers using this calculation do not need to amend previous claims.
- [Businesses are being urged to prepare for the NHS COVID-19 App](#) - the Government has issued a press release urging businesses to ensure they have NHS QR code posters visible on entry so customers who have downloaded the new NHS COVID-19 app can use their smartphones to easily check-in when the NHS COVID-19 app is launched across England and Wales on Thursday 24th September.

Operators can create a QR Code and associated poster for their business that links with the app [on this webpage](#)

[Visit Kent](#)

Training and support needs for your business

Visit Kent and the Kent Downs AONB will deliver free support and training to businesses in Kent, at a time when it is vital to rebuilding the sector.

To help them understand the needs of your business and plan a package of free training, please complete [this survey](#), which will take around 10 mins, by Friday 2 October.

This survey is part of the [EXPERIENCE project](#), an exciting new Interreg Channel project that will provide support in Kent and other regions across the UK and France to develop the experiential off-season tourism economy. EXPERIENCE aims to capitalise on the emerging global trend for personalised and local tourism experiences which increasingly provide the all-important reasons to visit, strengthened further by the current global situation.

This research is conducted for Visit Kent and Kent Downs AONB by the University of Surrey.

[Margate Town Deal](#)

Please see below for information on how you can find out more about the Town Deal and the opportunities to input. There are a number of ways to get involved including:

- (<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159861954126>) by **Sunday 20th September**. We have different versions so please select from the relevant link below.
 - Localperson (<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159861954126>)
 - Aged between 16 and 24 (<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159922539839>)
 - A local business (<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159922197551>)
 - A representative of a third sector organisation or charity (<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159903760764>)

If you would prefer a hard copy please text, call 07951 384263 or pick up from Margate Visitor Information Centre (Wednesday - Sunday 10am-5pm).

- Join a digital business breakfast on Thursday 17 September at 8am. Anyone who is interested can request details either by emailing research@pleydellsmithyman.co.uk or calling/texting 07951 384263.
- Taking part in a digital coffee morning – if you'd like to join the conversation please email research@pleydellsmithyman.co.uk to be sent further information.

Margate Town Deal People's Panel - This group will be representative of the community and come together on a regular basis to deliberate issues affecting Margate, make recommendations and support the Town Board. We would appreciate your help in promoting the Panel and encouraging members of the public to apply. [Find out more about the panel](#)