

# **New legal requirements for businesses.**

## **The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure) (England)**

### **Regulations 2020 revised by**

### **Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020**

In response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, Islington is monitoring the situation closely will be implementing official Government advice and legal requirements to help save lives.

Our environmental health duty line is operating by email only at [commercial.envh@islington.gov.uk](mailto:commercial.envh@islington.gov.uk) if you require specific advice.

Non-essential businesses and premises must now shut. A full list of premises and exemptions are listed in appendix A.

All businesses that are allowed to remain open must enforce social distancing for both customers and staff.

### **Social Distancing**

Where employees attend work social distancing must be implemented to help slow the spread of COVID-19. This involves maintaining a distance of 2 metres (6.5 feet) between people and reduced social interactions.

Businesses that breach the new regulations will be subject to prohibition notices, and potentially unlimited fines.

To implement social distancing for both staff and customers, food businesses must:

- Cease selling food to eat or drink on the premises
- Remove in-store seating where possible; if not possible as an alternative stack chairs or create a physical barrier to seating area. You should display clear signage in your business saying seating is not for use
- Remove tables and chairs from outside areas; where this is not possible make outside areas inaccessible
  
- If you are operating a takeaway food service you should:
  - Encourage customers to ring in their order or to order from the doorway
  - Have hand sanitiser inside the doorway, where possible
  - Deliver the takeaway to a central point, for example a condiment table, for the customer to pick up
  - Have hand sanitiser near condiments, when possible
  - Where possible use contactless for payment

All types of businesses or premises must:

- Limit the number of people who can come into your premises at any one time. You will need to assess this based on the size of your business but customers must be more than 2m apart and 2m from all staff.
- Implement control measures for queueing outside your premises e.g. tape marks on floor 2m apart and signage asking people to keep 2m apart.
- Hand sanitisers should be provided by businesses where possible.
- Wipes should be provided for customers to clean the handles of shopping trolleys and baskets
- Touch points e.g. trolleys, keypads, door handles etc., should be cleaned more frequently

- Keep doors open where possible to minimise contact
- Where possible you should use spacing measures e.g. tape strips, tape crosses, tape squares as floor markers at tills or queues
- Use a ticketing system where appropriate
- Where possible use contactless rather than cash. If workers must handle money, it is important they wash their hands afterwards
- Put clear signage near your door explaining your precautions. An example is:

We respectfully ask that you help us to keep you safe:

- Only four customers in the premises at any one time
- You must stay 2m from staff and other customers
- Please use hand sanitiser at entrance.
- Please stick to my 2m distance markers in queues

### **How is COVID-19 passed on?**

The virus is commonly passed on:

- Directly, through contact with an infected person's body fluids (for example, droplets from coughing or sneezing)
- Indirectly, through contact with surfaces that an infected person has coughed or sneezed on

Current information suggests that the virus could survive up to 72 hours (3 days) on hard surfaces depending on the material. However, the numbers of virus will reduce considerably over that time as it dies off. Simple household disinfectants can kill it.

### **What can workers do to prevent the spread of COVID-19?**

Staff and owners should not work if they have any of the symptoms of COVID-19. For more information visit the [NHS website](#).

You must carry out a risk assessment for your business to protect yourself, your employees and customers from risk of infection. See the [HSE webpages](#) for more information.

General measures of good practice to reduce chance of infection must include the following, even if symptom free:

- Proper hand hygiene
- Good cough/cold hygiene practices
- Safe food practices including increased cleaning regime for all hand contact surfaces including door handles, entrance doors, credit card readers, light switches etc.
- Avoiding close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing

## For more information

For up-to-date information visit [here](#).

For the latest guidance for members of the public visit [here](#).

For advice for employers and businesses visit [here](#).

National Council for Voluntary Organisations has some good advice for its members [here](#).

Public Health England has some good posters for businesses to download [here](#).

## Appendix A

<b>Business, premises or place</b>	<b>Exceptions</b>
<b>Food and drink</b>	
Restaurants	Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational.
Cafes, including workplace canteens	Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational. Cafés or canteens at hospitals, care homes or schools; prison and military canteens; services providing food or drink to the homeless.
Public houses	
Bars and nightclubs, including bars in hotels or members' clubs	
<b>Retail</b>	
Hair, beauty and nail salons, including piercing and tattoo parlours	
Massage parlours	
All retail with notable exceptions	Supermarkets and other food shops, health shops, pharmacies including non- dispensing pharmacies, petrol stations, bicycle shops, home and hardware shops, laundrettes and dry cleaners, bicycle shops, garages, car rentals, pet shops, corner shops, newsagents, post offices, and banks.

Outdoor and indoor markets	Market stalls which offer essential retail, such as grocery and food.
Auction houses	
Car showrooms	
<b>Hotels</b>	
Hotels, hostels, BnBs, campsites and boarding houses for commercial use	Where people live in these as interim abodes whilst their primary residence is unavailable they may continue to do so.  Key workers can continue to stay in hotels or similar where required.
Caravan parks/sites for commercial uses	Where people live permanently in caravan parks or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their primary residence is not available, they may continue to do so.
<b>Non-residential institutions</b>	
Libraries	
Community centres, youth centres and similar	Facilities may remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services.  We will do everything to support vulnerable people who are without a network of friends and families.
Places of worship for services	Funerals following the social distancing guidance; places of worship should remain open for solitary prayer.  Live streaming of a service without audience would be permissible.
Cinemas, theatres and concert halls	Live streaming of a performance by a small group could be permissible with social distancing observed.
<b>Assembly and leisure</b>	
Museums and galleries	
Bingo halls, casinos and betting shops	
Spas	
Skating rinks	
Fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools or other indoor leisure centres	
Arcades, bowling alleys, soft play centres and similar	
<b>Outdoor recreation</b>	
Enclosed spaces in parks, including playgrounds, sports courts and pitches, and outdoor gyms or similar	