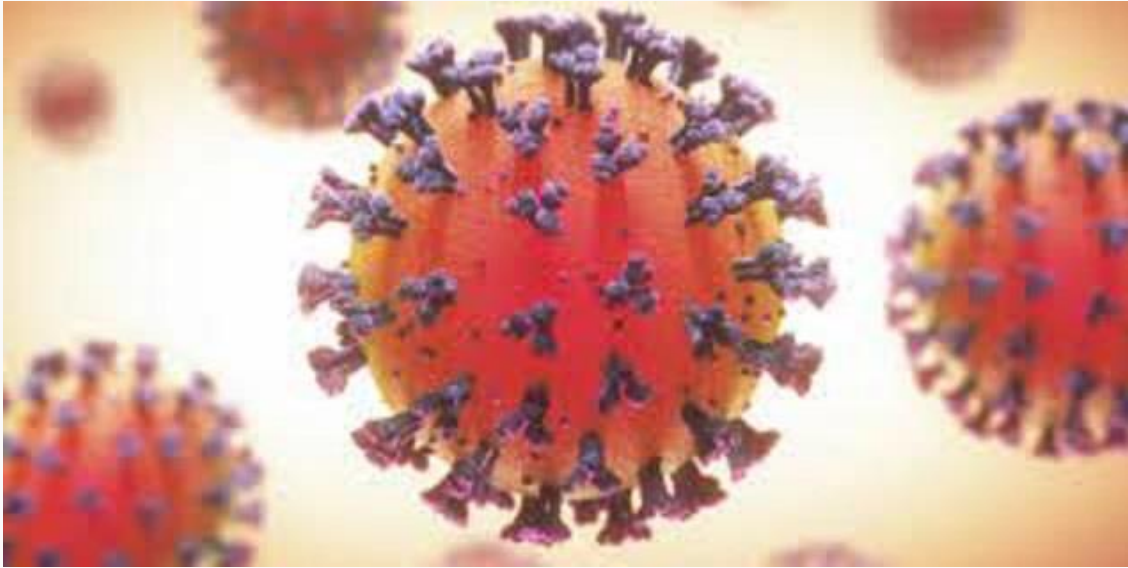


## AVA Newsletter: 18th August, 2021

### COVID-19 GUIDANCE UPDATE



**Monday 16 August brought a number of changes to COVID-19 guidance and restrictions across the UK.**

Here is a summary, with useful links to help you plan:

***Changes to self-isolation rules*** in England and Northern Ireland have now started. This means that fewer people will have to quarantine if they have been in close contact with someone with Covid. Similar rules are already in force in **Scotland** and **Wales**. Guidance on Test and Trace in the workplace can be found [HERE](#)

Those who still legally have to self-isolate under the new rules may be eligible for a £500 **Test and Trace Support Payment**.

As people return to work both in your office and your client's premises, there have been a number of changes to guidance for **working safely** issued by Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) detail is [HERE](#).

This includes updates in advice from the Department for Transport (DoT) for those who **work in or from vehicles** [HERE](#).

**Care Homes:** As you may have seen in our recent [AVA Technical Newsletter](#), "any professionals visiting a care home indoors . . . such as tradespeople [access will be allowed] only to those who can

demonstrate evidence of having had a complete course of an authorised COVID-19 vaccine (or evidence that they are exempt from vaccination)". Detail [HERE](#)

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## Budgeting & Planning



Many of the grants, loans and financial support provided by Government are starting to fall due around now. Or are due to change over the next few weeks:

**Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** - as detailed in our last [Newsletter](#), the proportion of salary/furlough payment made by the employer is changing as the scheme draws to a close in September. Full detail can be found in an HMRC video [HERE](#).

**VAT Reduction:** The AVA fought hard to ensure that Vending was included in the reduction of VAT from 20% to 5% in the Hospitality sector - to the financial benefit of our members ([VAT Reduction](#)). The VAT level changes to 12.5% from 30th September until 30th April, 2022. Detail from HMRC can be found [HERE](#).

**Bounce Back Loans:** Those AVA members who took advantage of the [BBLs](#) as it was launched will be approaching the end of the interest free first period - and hopefully preparing a payback plan.

HMRC Also agreed a [deferral option](#) for VAT payments due to coronavirus - with payments due from 30th June 2020.

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For further information and updates - keep checking the [COVID-19](#) resource pages on the AVA website. We hope you have found them useful!