

What is changing?

Self-isolation:

Has been widely reported, the law around self-isolation when you have coronavirus will be scrapped and be replaced by guidance to stay at home and away from vulnerable people.

From 24 February:

- ✚ People who test positive for COVID will no longer be bound by law to self-isolate
- ✚ Adults and children who have the virus will be advised to self-isolate - but this won't be a legal requirement
- ✚ Vaccinated contacts of people who have tested positive will no longer be asked to do daily lateral flow tests for seven days
- ✚ Contact tracing will end
- ✚ Support payments for people who would have previously self-isolated with COVID will end
- ✚ Businesses will no longer be legally required to tell staff to self-isolate if they have COVID

Testing:

England's testing programme is being significantly wound down, with the government saying it is switching from widespread testing to surveillance and monitoring of coronavirus in England.

From 21 February:

- ✚ Staff and students in schools and colleges will no longer be advised to do twice-weekly lateral flow tests
- ✚ People will only be able to order packs of lateral flow tests from the government website every three days

From 1 April:

- ✚ Free universal testing for people with or without symptoms will end and be targeted more towards vulnerable groups

COVID and the workplace

- ✚ As part of the "living with COVID" strategy, the laws for employers and employees on COVID will be scrapped.

From 24 March:

- ✚ COVID provisions for statutory sick pay introduced at the start of the pandemic will end
- ✚ COVID-secure laws for the workplace will become guidance

Surveillance

The government has assured that the ONS COVID Infection Survey will continue, allowing scientists to monitor England's epidemic and detect potential new variants.



Should I still self-isolate after the law changes?

When Boris Johnson announced his plan this would mean there will be no legal isolation period beyond February.

Will I have to go to work if I get COVID?

After 24th March it will be up to individual businesses whether staff should come to work if they feel well enough to do so - even if they have the virus.

Will my child still have to go to school?

Like businesses, individual schools will have drawn up their own policies on pupil absences. If a child is too sick with coronavirus to go to class, their parents are legally entitled to keep them at home, as with any other illness.

What if I have symptoms and I can't get a test?

With the reduction in availability of free lateral flow (LFT) tests, people who experience COVID-like symptoms may be unable to confirm whether they have the virus or not. In this case both public health experts still advised staying at home - if possible - for five days.

Will we get fourth jabs?

Currently, a small group of people who are severely immunocompromised or vulnerable to COVID are being offered fourth vaccine doses.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://fortel.co.uk/covid-19>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://mhfaengland.org/>

<https://www.lighthouseclub.org/>