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Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces Plan B restrictions to combat spread of Omicron variant

Boris Johnson has toughened coronavirus rules in England amid concern over the increasing spread of the Omicron variant.

Speaking at a Downing Street news conference on Wednesday 058th December 2021, the prime minister announced the measures in the government's "Plan B" for dealing with COVID-19 this winter.

What has the PM announced?

- ✓ The reintroduction of the work from home order, for those who can, from Monday
- ✓ The extension of mandatory face mask wearing to "most public indoor venues", including theatres and cinemas, from Friday. However, there will be exemptions "where it is not practical", such as when eating, drinking, exercising, or singing
- ✓ The NHS COVID pass, commonly referred to as a vaccine passport, will be made mandatory in a week's time for nightclubs and venues with large crowds. People will be able to use the pass to show either proof of two vaccine doses or a negative lateral flow test result. (These include unseated indoor venues with more than 500 people, unseated outdoor venues with more than 4,000 people, and any venue with more than 10,000 people.)
- ✓ The introduction of daily tests for people who are contacts of Omicron cases, instead of a period of isolation.
- ✓ New rules will be reviewed no later than early January.

However, Mr Johnson stressed the new measures were "not a lockdown" and people "should not" cancel Christmas parties or Nativity plays.

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