

Rolls-Royce Motors Cars to halt production for 2 weeks starting March 23

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Grille of the new Rolls-Royce Cullinan Black Badge. Image credit: Rolls-Royce

By MICKEY ALAM KHAN

British automaker Rolls-Royce will suspend production of vehicles from its Goodwood, England-based plant for two weeks as a precaution against the coronavirus outbreak.

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Going into effect March 23, the decision was made to ensure the health and safety of its factory workers. It will be followed by an already-planned two-week factory shutdown for Easter maintenance.

"This action has not been taken lightly, but the health and well-being of our exceptional workforce is first and foremost in our minds," said Torsten Müller-Övers, CEO of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, in a statement.

"We are a tight-knit community at the Home of Rolls-Royce and I have no doubt that our resilience will shine through during this extraordinary time," he said.



Spirit of Ecstasy on the Rolls-Royce Dawn. Shot on location in Western Cape, South Africa. Image courtesy of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. Photo: James Lipman

Corporate office working

The move to down tools temporarily follows the launch of new measures by the British government to stem the COVID-19 pandemic's spread that has already dislocated life and business worldwide.

Day-to-day operations of **Rolls-Royce** will continue with non-production employees working at the BMW-owned company's head office on the Goodwood Estate in West Sussex. Some will work from home on a rotational basis.

Social distancing measures have been introduced throughout Rolls-Royce too, the company said.

"As a deeply customer-focused company, we are aware that this decision to pause our production will possibly cause some discomfort or inconvenience to a few of our esteemed patrons, for which we apologize while seeking their understanding at this difficult time," Mr. Miller said.

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