

AUTOMOTIVE

Bentley Motors halts production at plant headquarters as COVID-19 precaution

March 20, 2020



Bentley Motors is suspending its factory production as a precaution over the coronavirus outbreak. Image credit: Bentley Motors

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British automaker Bentley Motors has suspended production of vehicles at its Crewe, England-based factory headquarters for four weeks, falling in line with other car companies that are taking precautions against the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

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The decision comes soon after British rival [Rolls-Royce Motor Cars suspended production at its Goodwood, England plant](#) and decided to open after the Easter break. Disruption in the supply chain and declining demand in some auto markets as well as the accelerate of COVID-19 infection was blamed for the production suspension.

"The well-being of our colleagues is our number one priority and although this was a difficult decision to take, and doesn't change our strategic direction, it was necessary to protect them as best we can during these unprecedented times," said Adrian Hallmark, chairman/CEO of Bentley Motors, in a statement.

"This will inevitably have an impact on our deliveries to customers, and we apologize for the inconvenience this causes, however we are working hard to minimize this disruption," he said. "Our thoughts continue to go out to all those affected around the world throughout this very sad and difficult time for so many people."



Bentley Motors plant in Crewe, England. Image credit: Bentley Motors

Safe than sorry

Company executives with core responsibilities will work out of the Crewe office, following social distancing policies or working remotely.

Bentley does not intend to resume production until April 20.

The Volkswagen-owned company has also added new measures to protect its employees. Operations at its canteen and shops have been revised, meetings will be conducted by Skype or video, live events have been postponed or cancelled, business trips have been scratched or put off, gym closed and social distancing is in force.



The Bentley Continental GT V8. Image credit: Bentley Motors

"Moreover, special protection applies for employees with special health risks as a result of pre-existing conditions affecting the heart or lungs and employees with weakened immune systems, among others," Bentley said.

"In order to keep transmission of the virus as low as possible, contacts are being largely avoided. Managers and employees have reviewed the possibilities of working from home, and the company has launched its largest ever program of remote working.

"The measures also include a halt to business trips including other countries and trips between locations."

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Bentley Motors (@BentleyMotors) **March 16, 2020**