

AUTOMOTIVE

## Bentley Motors prepares to welcome back employees with 250 new hygiene and social distancing measures

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*Employees on the Bentley Motors assembly line at the British automaker's factory in Crewe, England. Image courtesy of Bentley Motors*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British automaker Bentley Motors is unveiling a set of 250 new hygiene and social distancing measures as it prepares to welcome its employees in a phase manner at its company headquarters in Crewe, England.

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The processes are part of the Volkswagen-owned company's "Come Back Stronger" program as Bentley resumes on-site work starting May 11. These initiatives will mark the biggest change to daily working life in Bentley's 100-year history.

"Throughout this unprecedented crisis, the health and safety of our colleagues has, and will continue to be, paramount," said Bentley chairman/CEO Adrian Hallmark in a statement.

"These extensive new working measures will allow both our people and Bentley to come back stronger than ever and even more focused," he said.



*A Bentley Motors employee at work taking safety precautions as the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak is still at large. Image courtesy of Bentley Motors*

### Safe harbor

The precautionary measures are built around seven areas: prior to leaving work, travel, entry, preparing for work, work stations, breaks and exiting the site. They are designed to protect staff at the factory that employs more than 4,000 people who build every Bentley by hand.

Per **Bentley**, the key process changes affect all areas, including a redesign of the manufacturing facility to allow a two-meter [nearly 6.6 feet] distance between work colleagues, and one-way movement paths and traffic flows.

Facemasks will now be mandatory in all factory and office areas.

Bentley will also maintain a work from home policy for those who can.

Personal protection equipment including facemasks, gloves and goggles will be supplied to staff and, in parallel, donated to the local care sector. Health temperature checks for staff will be implemented.

There will also be an enhanced cleaning routine and clear guidance to the workforce on limiting the risk of infection on areas such as meeting governance, site access and travel, according to Bentley.

The company will control the population density on site at any one time.

Per Bentley, all entry and exit points have been reviewed and reconfigured to disperse the volume of people, there will be control measures in all catering facilities that limit capacity and allocated distanced seating, and office-based staff will work to a newly introduced shift-pattern.

In addition to controlling workforce density at the headquarters throughout the day, Bentley has also installed plastic separation screens in office areas.

A return to work guide that covers all new hygiene and social distancing measures is being dispatched to the home

addresses of all company employees. It is viewable on the Bentley Employee News app featuring an airline-style instructional video outlining the key changes to employee working patterns.

FULL PRODUCTION of Bentley cars will resume May 18, followed later by a staggered return to work for office-based staff and those who can work from home.

"The time is now right for Bentley to begin a gradual and controlled return to production, while ensuring our sites are the safest place any of us can be," Mr. Hallmark said.

"Everybody will be able to play their part to ensure we can continue Bentley's extraordinary journey into the future of luxury, sustainable mobility," he said.

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