



COVID-19 THE ROAD TO RECOVERY: A SUMMARY FOR BUSINESS



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Summary

On 11 May 2020, the Government published ‘OUR PLAN TO REBUILD: The UK Government’s COVID-19 recovery strategy’ outlining the approach to rebuilding and restarting the UK economy in a world with COVID-19.

The Government’s aim has been to save lives, and this continues to be the overriding priority of this roadmap. The Government is attempting to make the UK adapt to the new reality of life with COVID-19.

A phased recovery

As raised in the televised statement on 10 March 2020, the UK Government is following a phased approach to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past few months, the UK has been in ‘phase one’ – in which the Government has sought to contain, delay, research and mitigate the impact of the virus. As the UK exists phase one it will move to two further phases:

Phase two: Smarter Controls	Phase three: Reliable treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimising the spread of disease through continuing good hygiene practices: hand washing, social distancing and regular disinfecting of surfaces touched by others.• Limiting the number of social contacts people make each day, reducing the exposure of vulnerable groups and continued self-isolation for symptomatic and diagnosed individuals. <p>Over time the Government intends to make social contact less infectious by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• redesigning public and workspaces• testing, tracing, and monitoring of the infection to better focus restrictions where needed according to risk; and• stopping hotspots developing by detecting infection outbreaks at a localised level	<p>A vaccine will take time and might not even be possible.</p> <p>The Government is looking to develop, trial, manufacture and distribute reliable treatments or vaccines as swiftly as possible.</p>

Over the coming months the Government will introduce a range of adjustments to current social distancing measures, aiming to time these carefully according to both the current spread of the virus and the Government’s ability to ensure safety. These will occur in three “steps” outlined below, with strict conditions to safely move from each step to the next.

A roadmap to lifting restrictions

The Government has produced a planned timetable for lifting current restrictions dependent on the successful controlling of the spread of the virus. Restrictions will be phased releases and re-imposed if an outbreak of the virus appears and the infection rate increases.

STEP ONE: (From Wednesday 13th May in England)

Work

- For the foreseeable future – workers should continue to work from home.
- Workers who cannot work from home should travel to work if their workplace is open in certain sectors (food production, construction, manufacturing, logistics, distribution, scientific research).
- Hospitality and non-essential retail must remain closed.
- As soon as possible workplaces must follow “COVID-19 Secure” guidelines (see below).
- Symptomatic individuals or those in households with someone who has symptoms should not leave their house to go to work.

Face coverings

- Face coverings should now be worn in areas where social distancing is not always possible or in areas people encounter others (public transport, shops).
- Face-coverings are not the same as PPE masks and priority for PPE must remain with healthcare providers.
- Face-coverings are not to be used by children under the age of 2 or by those who may find it difficult to manager them correctly.

Schools

- Schools remain closed for all but those in need, those with EHC plans, vulnerable children, and the children of key/critical workers.
- Nannies and childminders can return to work providing they follow guidance and public health principals.

Travel

- Everyone (including critical workers) should continue to avoid public transport where possible.
- Employees who are returning to work should look to cycle, walk or drive
- Employees who must use public transport must follow social distancing principals.

Public Spaces

- Individuals can now spend more time outdoors providing that:
 - They are not meeting up with any more than one person from outside their households.
 - Social distancing is followed.
 - Good hand hygiene is followed.
- Individuals may exercise outside as many times each day as they wish – outside gyms, playgrounds and outdoor leisure venues remain closed.
- Individuals should only exercise with one person from outside your household – team sports are not allowed unless with members of the same household.
- Individuals can now drive to outdoor spaces irrespective of distance providing they follow social distancing measures.

STEP ONE: (From Wednesday 13th May in England) cont....

Protecting the vulnerable

- Those over the age of 70, those with specific chronic pre-existing conditions and pregnant women should continue to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their households but do not need to be shielded.
- Those in the clinically extremely vulnerable group are advised to stay at home at all times and avoid any face-to-face contact and remain 'shielded'.
- The Government will continue to provide essential food to those unable to leave their home and facilitate volunteer support for those being shielded.

International Travel (not coming into force from Wednesday 13th May)

- All international arrivals will need to supply contact and accommodation information and advised to download the NHS contact tracing app.
- All international arrivals not on a short list of exemptions are to self-isolate in their accommodations for fourteen days on arrival into the UK. Those unable to demonstrate where they would self-isolate will be required to do so in Government arranged accommodation.
- All journeys within the Common Travel Area (Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands) are exempt from these measures.

STEP TWO:

The content and timing of the second stage of adjustments will depend on the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus. Step two will not be introduced before Monday 1 June 2020, subject to all conditions being satisfied.

Schools & Education

- Phased return for early years and some schools – schools should prepare to be to open for more children from 1 June. Children from early years, Reception, Year 1, and Year 6 to return in small sizers from 1 June onwards.
- Secondary schools and FE colleges should also prepare for Years 10 and 12 for some face to face contact.
- Government aims for all Primary school children to return to school before the summer for a month.

Non-essential retail

- When and where it is safe to do so and subject to retailers following new COVID-19 Secure guidelines (see below) Government will allow a phased opening for different businesses.
- Hospitality and personal care remain closed until step three.

Sports & Culture

- Some cultural and sporting events will be allowed to take place behind closed doors for broadcast.

Transport

- Some local public transport in urban areas to be reopened following strict social distancing measures.

STEP THREE:

The Government's planning assumption is that this step will be no earlier than 4 July 2020, subject to the five governmental tests and other conditional measures.

Remaining retail and businesses

- Open some of the remaining businesses and premises that have been required to close including personal care (hairdressers and beauty salons) hospitality (food service providers, pubs and accommodation) public places (places of worship) and leisure facilities (cinemas).
- All venues will need to meet COVID-19 Secure guidelines (See below).

COVID-19 Secure Guidelines

The Government has been consulting relevant trade sectors, industry bodies, local authorities, trade unions and the Health and Safety Executive and Public Health England in the development of COVID-19 Secure guidelines. These guidelines, subject to being released later this week, will advise businesses on how to make workplaces, retail spaces, communal spaces safe for their employees and customers.

These guidelines will include measures now considered to be effective in public settings such as the use of face-coverings in enclosed areas and stricter restrictions on international travellers.

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