

Roadmap: summary of key points and reaction

Following the Prime Minister's statement to the Commons, the Government has published an accompanying [document](#) setting out further detail on the plan for easing lockdown measures in England.

The PM said that today's roadmap was cautious but "irreversible" and will be done in conjunction with the Devolved Administrations. Noting that no vaccine will be 100% effective, he warned that lifting lockdown will increase cases, hospitalisations, and deaths. As such, the Government will be taking a cautious approach to easing lockdown, guided by the data to avoid a surge in infections.

Of significance to BBPA:

- Hospitality serving in outdoor spaces, including pubs, will be able to reopen no earlier than 12 April. Then there will be no requirement for a substantial meal to be served alongside alcoholic drinks, and no curfew. The requirement to order, eat and drink while seated will remain.
- Pubs will be able to open indoors no earlier than 17 May with no requirement for a substantial meal to be served alongside alcoholic drinks, and no curfew. The requirement to order, eat and drink while seated will remain.
- On 21 June, the Government aims to remove all legal limits on social contact, publishing accompanying guidance on how best to reduce the risk of transmission.
- The roadmap also argues that economic support provided to businesses will be dependent on steps set out in the roadmap: as restrictions ease and the economy is gradually and safely reopened, the Government will carefully tailor the level of support to individuals and businesses to reflect the changing circumstances.

Before moving into each of the different steps, the Government will review the latest data on the impact of the previous step against four steps. These tests are:

1. Vaccination programme continues successfully.
2. Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
3. Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
4. The Government's assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

Due to the relatively uniform spread of the virus across the country, the Government plans to ease restrictions at the same time across the whole of England. The roadmap seeks to balance health, including mental health, economic and social factors and how they disproportionately impact certain groups, as well as epidemiological evidence.

The roadmap notes that it takes around four weeks for the data to reflect the impact of the previous step, and the Government wishes to provide a week's notice to individuals and businesses before making any changes. As such, there will be at least five weeks between each of the different steps in the roadmap.

To enable the roadmap to go ahead, the Government will also **conduct the following four reviews:**

- How long the UK should maintain social distancing and facemasks, to inform guidance on working from home (*to be completed before stage 4*).
- The resumption of international travel. A successor to the Global Travel Taskforce will report by the 12th April so people “can plan for the summer”.
- Consider the potential role of Covid-status certification in helping venues reopen safely.
- The safe return of major events.

On social and economic support, the PM confirmed that the Chancellor will set out further detail on economic support to protect jobs and livelihoods across the UK during the Budget on 3rd March.

A full summary of the Government’s roadmap can be found below:

PRINCIPLES FOR EASING

- Due to the current relatively uniform spread of the virus across the country, the four steps out of lockdown set out in the roadmap are designed to apply to all regions.
- It takes around four weeks for the data to show the impact of easing restrictions and the Government will provide a further weeks’ notice to the public and businesses ahead of any further changes. For that reason, there will be at least five weeks between the steps in the roadmap.
- Before taking each step, the Government will review the latest data on the impact of the previous step against four tests:
 1. Vaccination programme continues successfully.
 2. Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
 3. Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
 4. The Government’s assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

THE ROADMAP STEPS

Step 1

From 8 March

Socialising

- The Stay-at-Home restriction will continue but it will be amended so that people can leave home for recreation as well as exercise outdoors - with their own household, support or childcare bubble, or with one person from another household.
- Every care home resident in England will be able to nominate a single named visitor who can come in for a regular visit. The visitor will have to take a rapid lateral flow test every time they visit, wear PPE and keep physical contact to a minimum.

Education

- Pupils and students in all schools and Further Education settings will return to face-to-face education from 8 March.
- Wraparound childcare (including childminders) and other children’s activities can restart from 8 March for all children where it is needed to enable parents or carers to work, seek work, attend education, seek medical care or attend a support group.

- Students on practical Higher Education courses at English universities who would be unable to complete their courses if they did not return to take part in practical teaching, access specialist facilities, or complete assessments will also return from 8 March.
- For those Higher Education students that do not need to take part in practical teaching, and do not require access to specialist facilities or equipment as part of their studies, the Government will review, by the end of the Easter holidays, the options for timing of the return of these students.
- Under-18 sport can take place at school as part of educational provision, or as part of wraparound care, but should not otherwise take place at this time.

Other

- The Government will amend the regulations to enable a broader range of campaign-related activity from 8 March ahead of the local elections in May, but it is essential that this still takes place in a COVID-Secure way, in line with guidance and the law.

From 29 March

Socialising

- People will be able to meet outside in groups up to a maximum of 6 people (the Rule of 6) or with one other household, though people from different households will still need to socially distance from each other. This will apply in all outdoor settings, including private gardens.

Sport

- The Government will also allow outdoor sports facilities to reopen, broadening the options for outdoor exercise and recreation. These facilities, such as tennis and basketball courts, and swimming pools, can be used by people in line with the wider social contact limits.
- Formally organised outdoor sports – for adults and under 18s - can also restart and will not be subject to the gatherings limits but should be compliant with guidance issued by national governing bodies.

Other

- Rules around funerals will not change; these can proceed with 30 attendees and wakes with 6 attendees, though not in private homes. Weddings will still be able to proceed with 6 attendees only but will no longer be limited to exceptional circumstances.
- Guidance will set out that people should continue to work from home where they can. People should continue to minimise travel wherever possible, and should not be staying away from home overnight at this stage.

Step 2

No earlier than 12 April (If Step 2 is delayed, subsequent steps will need to be pushed back in order to maintain the necessary five-week period to assess the impact of each step and provide notice)

Reopening

- The following venues will be able to reopen but should only be visited alone or with household groups:
 - non-essential retail
 - outdoor hospitality
 - personal care premises such as hairdressers, salons and close contact services
 - indoor leisure facilities such as gyms and spas (but not including saunas and steam rooms, which are due to open at Step 3).
 - overnight stays away from home in this country will be permitted and self-contained accommodation.
 - Zoos

- theme parks
- drive-in cinemas
- drive-in performances events

Hospitality

- Hospitality venues will be able to open for outdoor service, with no requirement for a substantial meal to be served alongside alcoholic drinks, and no curfew. The requirement to order, eat and drink while seated will remain.

Socialising

- Social contact rules in England will not change further at this point. Outdoor gatherings must still be limited to 6 people or 2 households as in Step 1, and no indoor mixing will be allowed unless otherwise exempt.
- At Step 2, the Government will take a decision on extending the number of care home visitors to two per resident and set out a plan for the next phase of visits.

Work

- People should continue to work from home where they can, minimise domestic travel where they can. International holidays will still be prohibited.

Sport

- All children will be able to attend any indoor children's activity, including sport, regardless of circumstance. Parent and child groups of up to 15 people (not counting children aged under five years old) can restart indoors.

Other

- Funerals can continue to proceed with up to 30 attendees. Weddings, receptions, and commemorative events including wakes will be able to take place with up to 15 attendees (in premises that are permitted to open).

Step 3

No earlier than 17 May (the Government will announce one week in advance whether restrictions will be eased as planned)

Reopening

- In Step 3, all but the most high-risk sectors will be able to reopen. In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and premises must not cater for groups larger than the legal limits. Sectors which will reopen include:
 - Indoor hospitality, with no requirement for a substantial meal to be served alongside alcoholic drinks, and no curfew. The requirement to order, eat and drink while seated will remain.
 - Remaining outdoor entertainment, such as outdoor theatres and cinemas
 - Indoor entertainment, such as museums, cinemas and children's play areas
 - Remaining accommodation, such as hotels, hostels and B&Bs
 - Adult indoor group sports and exercise classes

Sporting Events

- Some large events, including conferences, theatre and concert performances and sports events. Controlled indoor events of up to 1,000 people or 50% of a venue's capacity, whichever is lower, will be permitted, as will outdoor events with a capacity of either 50% or 4,000 people, whichever is lower.
- The Government will also make a special provision for large, outdoor, seated venues where crowds can be safely distributed, allowing up to 10,000 people or 25% of total seated capacity, whichever is lower.

Socialisation

- The Government will further ease limits on social contact, enabling the public to make informed personal decisions. It will remain important for people to consider the risks for themselves, taking into account whether they and those they meet have been vaccinated or are at greater risk.
- The Government will lift most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors, but gatherings of more than 30 people outdoors will remain illegal. Indoors, people will be able to meet socially in a group of 6, or with 1 other household, though it may be possible to go further than this at Step 3 depending on the data.

Work

- The Government will continue to advise the public to work from home where they can.

Travel

- The Government will work closely with the Devolved Administrations who will have their own respective rules and regulations on travel in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The Global Travel Taskforce will report on 12 April with recommendations aimed at facilitating a return to international travel as soon as possible while still managing the risk from imported cases and Variants of Concern.
- The Government will determine when international travel should resume, which will be no earlier than 17 May.

Other

- At this step, weddings, receptions, funerals, and commemorative events including wakes can proceed with up to 30 attendees.

Step 4

No earlier than 21 June (the Government will announce one week in advance whether restrictions will be eased as planned)

Reopening

- The Government aims to reopen the remaining closed settings, including nightclubs and enable large events, including theatre performances, above the Step 3 capacity restrictions, subject to the outcome of the scientific Events Research Programme.

Large Events

- DCMS and the BEIS have been working with representatives from industry and civil society to explore when and how events with larger crowd sizes, less social distancing or in settings where transmission is more likely (i.e. indoors), will be able to return safely. This includes sports events, music festivals and large weddings and conferences.
- Over the spring the Government will run a scientific Events Research Programme. This will include a series of pilots using enhanced testing approaches and other measures to run events with larger crowd sizes and reduced social distancing to evaluate the outcomes. The pilots will start in April.

Socialisation

- The Government aims to remove all legal limits on social contact, publishing accompanying guidance on how best to reduce the risk of transmission.

Other

- The Government aims to remove all limits on weddings and other life events, subject to the outcome of the scientific Events Research Programme.

International Travel

- The Government's objective is to see a safe and sustainable return to international travel, for business and pleasure. When it is safe to do so the UK will again be the destination of choice for international visitors from around the world. In the short-term, the Government

will continue to protect the vaccine rollout and mitigate against the risk posed by imported variants.

- The Department for Transport will lead a successor to the Global Travel Taskforce, with an ambition to develop a framework that can facilitate greater inbound and outbound travel as soon as the time is right, while still managing the risk from imported cases and variants. This will look to take a risk-based approach, making use of the suite of measures the Government already has in place such as testing and isolation and the recommendations from the first Global Travel Taskforce last year.

Vaccine Passports

- **COVID status certification:** COVID status certification involves using testing or vaccination data to confirm in different settings that people have a lower risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others. The Government will review whether COVID-status certification could play a role in reopening our economy, reducing restrictions on social contact and improving safety. This will include assessing to what extent certification would be effective in reducing risk, and the potential uses to enable access to settings or a relaxation of COVID Secure mitigations.

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL SUPPORT

- The roadmap argues that the 3 March Budget will outline the next stage in the Government's Plan for Jobs including further detail on economic support to protect jobs and livelihoods across the UK.
- Economic support provided to businesses will be dependent on steps set out in the roadmap: as restrictions ease and the economy is gradually and safely reopened, the Government will carefully tailor the level of support to individuals and businesses to reflect the changing circumstances.
- The roadmap also argues that, as the Chancellor has set out previously, it is not sustainable to borrow at this current level over the medium term. This means the Government has a responsibility, once the economy recovers, to return to a sustainable fiscal position.

LONG TERM IMPACTS

- The Government and scientists expect COVID-19 to become endemic, meaning the virus will reach a stable, and hopefully manageable level.
- The roadmap argues that the Government will ensure the country can live with the virus in the longer-term without imposing restrictions which bear heavy economic, social and health costs.
- On testing, the Government will also use the Test, Trace and Isolate system to keep the virus in check. This includes regular asymptomatic testing in sectors with the highest risk of transmission, as well as testing in the workplace to help protect employees from infection and keep businesses open.
- Internationally, the UK will use its G7 Presidency to lead the global recovery from COVID19, including by calling for a new, global approach to pandemics with further international cooperation on vaccine distribution and finance, while strengthening the world's resilience against future pandemics.

In response, Leader of the Opposition Keir Starmer asked for updates from the Prime Minister on the logistics of reopening schools, including Nightingale Hospitals, and the potential for vaccinating teachers and support staff. He also pressed the Prime Minister on not just reopening schools, but ensuring they stay open. Johnson said that the plan for reopening in March 8th is supported by the CMO and Chief Scientific Adviser. On financial support for businesses, Starmer pointed to the time lag between today's announcement and the Budget next week. In particular, he pressed the Prime Minister for the lack of support for self-employed workers. Johnson said the Government will

“continue to put [its] arms around” those in need and the Chancellor has been “extremely creative in this respect”.

Former Prime Minister Theresa May pointed to support for the aviation sector and disputed that the Government’s promise of a report by the revised Global Travel Taskforce will allow sufficient time for the sector to plan. She said “at every stage the Government has taken weeks following such reports to provide certainty to industry” and stated that 3 months preparation time is needed. She called on the PM to bring the proposed timetable forward so the industry can properly reopen. Johnson disagreed with May and said setting a deadline of April 12th “will give people time to make plans for the summer”. He said “if things go well”, then he believes there is “every chance for an aviation recovery later this year”.

Westminster SNP Leader Ian Blackford discussed quarantine measures for international arrivals, stating they must be taken more seriously in England and pointed to the differences in Scotland and England’s hotel quarantine policy. He said the new lockdown roadmap will be “worthless” if people are able to circumvent the hotel quarantine measures. He said “do not leave the backdoor open” given “all that is at stake”. Johnson said the UK has “some of the toughest border restrictions in the world” and the Government will continue to enforce tough controls on those coming into the country.

Former Conservative Leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith said he agreed with the Prime Minister’s caution in the rollout, however he expressed his concerns for the hospitality sector. He called on the Government to reconsider the timetable for reopening hospitality indoors. Johnson said he understands the urgency to reopen pubs and restaurants indoors but he was more concerned about causing another ‘wave’ of the virus by reopening them too soon, therefore the dates he gave today should “give businesses enough” to start planning.

Date: 22.2.21