

PM announces easing of lockdown restrictions: 23 June 2020

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has today (Tuesday 23 June) set out further changes to lockdown measures in England to enable people to see more of their friends and family, help businesses get back on their feet and get people back in their jobs.

From Saturday 4th July, the Prime Minister has announced that pubs, restaurants and hairdressers will be able to reopen, providing they adhere to COVID Secure guidelines.

From the same date, he has set out that two households will be able to meet up in any setting with social distancing measures, and that people can now enjoy staycations in England with the reopening of accommodation sites.

In order to begin restoring the arts and cultural sector, some leisure facilities and tourist attractions may also reopen, if they can do so safely – this includes outdoor gyms and playgrounds, cinemas, museums, galleries, theme parks and arcades, as well as libraries, social clubs, places of worship and community centres.

Following a review, the Prime Minister has also set out that where it is not possible to stay two metres apart, guidance will allow people to keep a social distance of ‘one metre plus’. This means staying one metre apart, plus mitigations which reduce the risk of transmission.

As we begin to reopen the economy, it’s important that we do not increase the risk of transmission which is why “close proximity” venues such as nightclubs, soft-play areas, indoor gyms, swimming pools, water parks, bowling alleys and spas will need to remain closed for now. The Government is continuing to work with these sectors to establish taskforces to help them to become COVID Secure and reopen as soon as possible.

While the infection rate continues to fall, the Prime Minister has been clear that the public must continue to follow social distancing guidelines to keep coronavirus under control. The Government will keep all measures under constant review and will not hesitate to apply the handbrake, or reverse measures, should the virus begin to run out of control.

These changes apply in England only.

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It has been acknowledged that where it is impractical to maintain 2 metres of social distancing, 1 metre plus can have the same effect if the mitigation is appropriate... so the effect of one person 1 metre away can be reduced to the effect of being 2 metres distant if orientation, face coverings, screens, ventilation, outdoors, etc. are considered, applied or utilised. 1 metre distancing, together with attention to mitigation will allow us all to return to work, but we must continue to stay alert to the virus and how it transmits.

- *check that your client is fit and expecting your visit*
- *wash hands on arrival*
- *wear gloves, mask, apron and eye protection*
- *work efficiently to do only what is necessary*
- *keep the working time short to reduce exposure – explain that this is all you can do at present because of the risk of transmission of the virus.*
- *wash your hands again on leaving – do not touch your face*
- *write-up your record card soon after leaving*