

DCMS Arts Sector
Coronavirus bulletin

16 July 2021

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1. Key updates

NEW The Culture Recovery Fund: Emergency Resource Support is now open. Advice can be found at the [Arts Council England](#), [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) and [British Film Institute](#) websites.

NEW The [Working Safely During Coronavirus Guidance from Step 4](#) was published on 14 July

- This guidance applies from Step 4. It's been published so that you can use it to inform your planning and business operations from 19 July onwards.

NEW [Travel Traffic Light System Update for 19 July](#) published on 15 July

- Changes to the international travel red, amber and green lists coming into force at 4am on Monday 19 July.

NEW [Prime Minister confirms move to Step 4: 12/07](#)

[Prime Minister's Statement](#)

[Secretary of State for Health and Social Care provides an update on step 4: 12/07](#)

- Step 4 of the Roadmap to go ahead on Monday 19 July
- Prime Minister emphasises caution and personal responsibility

NEW [Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do: updated 12/07](#)

Cases are high and rising, everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious.

Key protections at step 4 kept in place from 19 July:

- testing when you have symptoms and targeted asymptomatic testing in education, high risk workplaces and to help people manage their personal risk.
- isolating when positive or when contacted by NHS Test and Trace.
- border quarantine: for all arriving from red list countries and for those people not fully vaccinated arriving from amber list countries.
- cautious guidance for individuals, businesses and the vulnerable whilst prevalence is high including:
 - whilst Government is no longer instructing people to work from home if they can, Government would expect and recommend a gradual return over the summer
 - Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport;
 - being outside or letting fresh air in
 - minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.
 - encouraging and supporting businesses and large events to use the NHS Covid Pass in high risk settings. The Government will work with organisations where people are likely to be in close proximity to others outside their household to encourage the use of this. If sufficient measures are not taken to limit infection, the Government will consider mandating certification in certain venues at a later date.

[COVID-19 Response: Summer 2021: updated 12/07](#)

The measures at Step 4 include the following:

Social distancing

- All remaining limits on social contact (currently 6 people or 2 households indoors, or 30 people outdoors) will be removed and there will be no more restrictions on how many people can meet in any setting, indoors or outdoors.
- All settings will be able to open. Large events, such as music concerts and sporting events can resume without any limits on attendance or social distancing requirements.
- Social distancing rules (2 metres or 1 metre with additional mitigations) will be lifted. You should continue to consider the risks of close contact with others, particularly if you are clinically extremely vulnerable or not yet fully vaccinated.

Face coverings

- The legal requirements to wear a face covering will be lifted in all settings. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, published guidance will advise that wearing a face covering will reduce your risk and the risk to others, where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet in enclosed and crowded spaces.

Test and Trace no longer a legal requirement

- Businesses will be encouraged to display QR codes for customers to check in using the NHS COVID-19 app, to support NHS Test and Trace, although it will no longer be a legal requirement.

Life events such as weddings

- All restrictions on life events such as weddings, funerals, bar/bat mitzvahs and baptisms will be removed, including the remaining restrictions on the number of attendees. There will be no requirement for table service at life events, or restrictions on singing or dancing.

Certification

- COVID-status certification will not be required in law as a condition of entry for visitors to any setting. Organisations are already able to ask visitors for proof of COVID-status, as long as they meet existing legal obligations including under equality law. The Government is providing a way for individuals to easily demonstrate their COVID-status. This can be achieved by completion of a full vaccine course, a recent negative test, or proof of natural immunity - through the NHS COVID Pass on the NHS app.

Working from home

- It is no longer necessary for Government to instruct people to work from home. Employers can start to plan a return to workplaces.

Workplaces

- 'Working Safely' guidance will be updated to provide examples of sensible precautions that employers can take to reduce risk in their workplaces. Employers should take account of this guidance in preparing the risk assessments they are already required to make under pre-pandemic health and safety rules.
- Businesses must not require a self-isolating worker to come to work, and should make sure that workers and customers who feel unwell do not attend the setting.
- Businesses will be encouraged to ask staff and customers to clean their hands regularly and clean surfaces that people touch regularly. The Government will provide guidance on how businesses can reduce unnecessary contact in the workplace, where it is practical.

Cafes

- Regulations that place COVID-secure requirements on businesses, including table service, and distancing between tables, will be lifted.

Ventilation

- Operators will still be encouraged to use outside space where practical, and to consider the supply of fresh air to indoor spaces. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) monitors could be used to help

identify where a space is poorly ventilated with businesses encouraged to take steps to improve ventilation if CO2 readings are consistently high.

NEW [Quarantine-free travel to resume on 19 July for fully vaccinated passengers returning from amber list countries: 08/07](#)

[International travel from amber list countries and territories: 08/07](#)

- From 19 July, arrivals who have been fully vaccinated with an NHS administered vaccine in the UK (plus 14 days), or are on a formally approved UK vaccine clinical trial, returning to England from amber list countries will no longer need to quarantine – passengers will need to provide proof of their vaccination status to carriers in advance of travel.

NEW [Update to Parliament on self-isolation rules: 06/07](#)

NEW [Self-isolation to be eased for fully vaccinated adults in Step 4: 06/07](#)

- From 16 August, double jabbed individuals and under 18s will no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone with covid-19.
- If someone gets their second dose just before, or after, the 16th of August, they'll need to wait until two weeks after they get the second jab to benefit from these new freedoms so the vaccine has time to build the maximum possible protection.

[Third round of Culture Recovery Fund: 25/06](#)

- We announced details of Round 3 of the CRF on Friday 25 June. Close date for applications is 30 September 2021.
- The CRF has already provided more than £1.2 billion to more than 5,000 organisations.
- The third and final round of funding will now provide further support as the cultural, heritage and creative sectors move towards reopening at full capacity, underlining the government's commitment to help them build back better as life returns to normal.

[Government publishes Events Research Programme report: 25/06](#)

[Events Research Programme: Phase I findings: 25/06](#)

- Report summarises the findings from Phase I of the Events Research Programme.
- Mitigation measures can be used to reduce and manage risks associated with large events.

[Webinar Series: 'Culture in Crisis: Global Heritage Perspectives'](#)

- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the British Council and the Victoria and Albert Museum's Culture in Crisis Programme have announced a renewed partnership to produce their second interactive series of webinar events, slated to commence in July 2021, focusing on 'Culture in Crisis: Global Heritage Perspectives'.
- These events form part of an annual collaboration between the three organisations, under the banner of 'Culture in Crisis Conversations'.
- Register to attend [here](#).

[Museums Association Museums Change Lives Awards 2021](#)

- Museums Change Lives Awards 2021 are now open for nominations. Deadline 27 August 5.30pm.

[Eviction protection extended for businesses most in need 16/06](#)

- New rules to be established to ringfence COVID-19 commercial rent arrears and guide tenants and landlords to agree repayment plans.
- Measures to protect commercial tenants extended until new rules come into force.

[Check if you are eligible for a Coronavirus Restart Grant 16/06](#)

- The Restart Grant scheme supports businesses in the non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure, personal care, and accommodation sectors with a one-off grant, to reopen safely as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
- Grants have been available from 1 April 2021

In [Wales](#), [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) different rules apply.

- [Northern Ireland](#): current regulations.
- [Wales](#): current regulations
- [Scotland](#): current regulations

2. Guidance

[Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus](#)

- The GIS team recognise the Guidance from the Health and Safety Executive titled [Ventilation and air conditioning during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)
- [Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers: Emerging from Lockdown guidance](#)
- GIS advice: ventilation is just one of a range of measures used to control the spread of viruses, and its use should be balanced against other negative impacts such as increased pollution, energy, noise, security, health, well-being and environmental conditions.

Further information and guidance

- [Guidance for DCMS sectors](#)
- [Heritage locations guidance: updated 22/06](#)
- [The visitor economy guidance: updated 22/06](#)
- [Guidance on searching for archaeological finds in England: updated 18/05](#)
- [Guidance for shops and branches on reopening: updated 22/06](#)
- [Performing Arts guidance: updated 22/06](#)
- [Volunteering guidance: updated 17/06](#)
- [Library Service Recovery Toolkit 20/05](#)

3. Test and Trace

[NHS Test and Trace: requirement to maintain records: updated 17/05](#)

[NHS test and trace: how it works: updated 20/05](#)

[NHS test and trace service in the workplace: updated 17/05](#)

[NHS Test and Trace customer logging toolkit: updated 25/09](#)

[ICO guidance: 18/09](#) and [Q&A for small businesses and organisations](#)

- Updated to reflect the change in rules for when a group enters a venue. From 29 March 2021, every customer or visitor should be asked to scan the NHS QR code or provide their name and contact details, not just a lead member.
- Mandatory for libraries, museums and galleries to have a system to collect Test and Trace data, and to ask customers to provide these details. Businesses are required to retain details for 21 days.
- Museums and libraries must display an official NHS QR code poster so visitors can scan the QR code using their NHS COVID-19 App, as an alternative to visitors providing contact details.
- The regulations are [here](#), and further information [here](#), with FAQs and a business toolkit.

4. SEISS

[Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant extension: 25/06](#)

[Online eligibility checker tool](#)

Fifth grant

- Find out if you're eligible for the fifth grant which will cover the period May 2021 to September 2021.

5. Funding

England

[National Lottery Heritage Fund support: updated 14/06](#)

[Arts Council England Covid-19 support: updated 04/06](#)

[ACE National Lottery Project Grants open for applications](#)

- £59.8m available for independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers.

Northern Ireland

[Northern Ireland Creative Support Fund: updated 11/06](#)

[£2m Community Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund](#)

- Will prioritise projects which support people with disabilities and those who are vulnerable.
- [£7.75m programme to support arts and cultural organisations: 28/10](#)
- Aimed at helping the arts and cultural sector recover from the effects of the pandemic.

Scotland

[Creative Scotland](#) support:

- [£7.5m Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#): to support creative practitioners
- [£10m lifeline support for Performing Arts Venues in Scotland: 03/07](#)

Wales

[Welsh government's £53m Cultural Recovery Fund: updated 23/10](#)

- £18.5m for accredited museums, archive services, and others.
- £7 million fund for freelancers to support individuals in the sector
- [£27.5m fund administered by the Arts Council of Wales](#) for galleries and arts centres.

[Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund](#)

- Two funding streams for collections engagement: grants up to £90,000 over around 2 years
- Expressions of interest deadline is 13 September for awards in December, following a two-stage process.
- In total £1.3m will be awarded, anticipated to be 7-10 projects in each funding round

6. Business support

[Business support homepage](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance for the charity sector Updated 02/07](#)

[VAT reduced rate for hospitality, holiday accommodation and attractions updated 03/03](#)

- VAT reduced from 20% to 5% for hospitality and attractions, including museums, and for food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, cafés, extended to 30 September.
- New VAT rate of 12.5% from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022

[Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus: videos and webinar: Updated 09/07](#)

- how to make your workplace COVID-secure: [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for international trade: [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax: [recorded sessions](#)

Loans and grants for businesses

Loans - application deadline was extended to 31 December 2021

- [Recovery Loan Scheme: 03/03](#): loans and other finance up to £10m per business.
- The government guarantees 80% of the finance to the lender.
- Launches 6 April and is open until 31 December, subject to review. Loans will be available through a network of accredited lenders, whose names will be made public in due course.
- [Local Restrictions Support Grants and Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 16/06](#)
- [Check if you're eligible for the coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 17/06](#)

- [Small business grants: and retail, hospitality and leisure grants guidance: updated 07/08/2020](#)

Support across the UK

- Information for individuals and businesses in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#)

7. Health guidance

Coronavirus: collected guidance

- [How to stop the spread of coronavirus: updated 11/06](#)
- [Making a support bubble with another household: updated 17/05](#)
- [Working safely during coronavirus: updated 22/06](#)
- [Public Health England Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resource Centre](#)

8. Key information sources

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#) [Sign up for email alerts](#)
- [Public Health England](#) twitter [Public Health England](#)
- [NHS guidance](#) twitter [NHS England](#)
- [Department of Health](#)
- [UK Prime Minister](#)
- [FCO Travel advice](#)