

The UK Government released a document setting out its approach to managing the COVID-19 epidemic into the future. The full document can be read [here](#).

Key points below.

Step One: Wednesday 13 May 2020

Work

- Workers should continue to work from home rather than their normal physical workplace, wherever possible.
- All workers who cannot work from home should travel to work if their workplace is open. For example this includes food production, construction, manufacturing, logistics, distribution and scientific research in laboratories.
- Workplaces will be required to follow the new “COVID-19 Secure” guidelines, which have been published on the GOV.UK website [here](#).

Schools

- The rate of infection remains too high to allow the reopening of schools for all pupils yet.
- However, local authorities and schools should urge more children who would benefit from attending in person to do so.
- Paid childcare, for example nannies and childminders, can take place subject to being able to meet public health principles.

Travel

- When travelling everybody (including critical workers) should continue to avoid public transport wherever possible.
- If you need to travel on public transport, social distancing guidance must be followed rigorously.

Face-coverings

- Increased mobility means the Government is now advising that people **should aim to wear a face-covering in enclosed spaces** where social distancing is not always possible and they come into contact with others that they do not normally meet, for example on public transport or in some shops.
- These face-coverings should not be surgical masks or similar as currently used by health workers. These need to be reserved for those who need them.

Public spaces

- As well as exercise, **people can now also spend time outdoors** subject to: not meeting up with any more than one person from outside your household; continued compliance with social distancing guidelines to remain two metres (6ft) away from people outside your household; good hand hygiene, particularly with respect to shared

surfaces; and those responsible for public places being able to put appropriate measures in place to follow the new COVID-19 Secure guidance.

- People **may exercise outside as many times each day as they wish**. For example, this would include angling and tennis. You will still not be able to use areas like playgrounds, outdoor gyms or ticketed outdoor leisure venues, where there is a higher risk of close contact and touching surfaces. You can only exercise with up to one person from outside your household – this means you should not play team sports, except with members of your own household.
- People may drive to outdoor open spaces irrespective of distance, so long as they respect social distancing guidance while they are there, because this does not involve contact with people outside your household.

International travel

- The Government will require all international arrivals to supply their contact and accommodation information. They will also be strongly advised to download and use the NHS contact tracing app
- The Government will require all international arrivals not on a short list of exemptions to self-isolate in their accommodation for fourteen days on arrival into the UK. Where international travellers are unable to demonstrate where they would self-isolate, they will be required to do so in accommodation arranged by the Government.

Step Two: No sooner than 1 June 2020

- A phased return for early years settings and schools. Schools should prepare to begin to open for more children from 1 June. **The Government expects children to be able to return to early years settings, and for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be back in school in smaller sizes, from this point.**
- Secondary schools and further education colleges should also prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning.
- **Opening non-essential retail** when and where it is safe to do so, and subject to those retailers being able to follow the new COVID-19 Secure guidelines. The Government will issue further guidance shortly on the approach that will be taken to phasing, including which businesses will be covered in each phase and the timeframes involved. All other sectors that are currently closed, including hospitality and personal care, are not able to re-open at this point because the risk of transmission in these environments is higher.
- Permitting **cultural and sporting events to take place behind closed-doors** for broadcast.

Social and family contact

- The Government has asked SAGE to examine whether, when and how it can safely change the regulations to allow people to expand their household group to include one other household in the same exclusive group.

- The Government is also examining how to enable people to gather in slightly larger groups to better facilitate small weddings.

Step Three: No sooner than 4 July 2020

- The ambition at this step is to open at least some of the remaining businesses and premises that have been required to close, including personal care (such as hairdressers and beauty salons) hospitality (such as food service providers, pubs and accommodation), public places (such as places of worship) and leisure facilities (like cinemas). They should also meet the COVID-19 Secure guidelines.