

Summary of PM's statement to the House of Commons: COVID-19 New Guidelines

Tuesday 23rd June 2020

Heritage Alliance Summary

Today the Prime Minister announced further changes to the coronavirus lockdown guidelines for large parts of the hospitality and heritage sectors. Following the reductions of infections by 2-4% per day, the UK will now transition from Level 4 to Level 3 of the COVID-19 alert system.

The much-anticipated measures involve a re-opening of museums, pubs, restaurants and cinemas from 4 July with new social distancing guidelines **reducing the 2-metre distancing rule to a '1 metre plus' approach**. This means that wherever possible people should continue to keep two metres apart, but where this is not possible, actions should be taken to mitigate risks. These include wearing masks, protecting workers and customers with protective screens or hand sanitiser. Social distancing will now be endorsed as guidance rather than by legislation.

Further changes:

From the 4 July, 2 households of any size can meet in any setting - inside or out. However, where more than 2 households meet, this is still to be limited to 6 people and the meeting must take place outside.

Tourist attractions, including galleries, museums, theme parks, libraries, social clubs and community centres, will also open on 4 July.

Accommodation provision with shared facilities such as hotels and B&Bs can re-open for people to stay overnight if there is regular cleaning of shared facilities such as kitchens.

Places of worship will also re-open from 4 July for public prayer services with the necessary measures in place. This will also enable wedding receptions to take place again, however only with a maximum of 30 people with the new social distancing measures.

Limits to changes:

However, close-proximity venues such as theatres and orchestras, alongside swimming pools, will remain closed. The Prime Minister highlighted that the DCMS is working with specific taskforce groups to provide guidance and support for these venues to re-open when it is safe to do so.

There are no current changes to lockdown measures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, though the Prime Minister urged the Welsh Government to reconsider the 5-mile travel rule in Wales.

The current blanket quarantine for foreign visitors remains unchanged.

Full speech [here](#).