

Covid-19 Roadmap - Timeline

On 22 February 2021, the Government published its COVID-19 Response Spring 2021 (the “Roadmap”) setting out the roadmap of the current lockdown for England. We summarise the key “Steps” below.

The Prime Minister has advocated a “cautious but irreversible” approach to lifting the current lockdown restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The efforts of the British public to comply with the current rules and the vaccination roll-out programme have resulted in a proposed roadmap out of lockdown for England. For the most part, the dates are provisional and will be based on data and the “**Four Tests**” including:

Test 1 – The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.

Test 2 – Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.

Test 3 – Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

Test 4 – The Government’s assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new variants of concern.

Assuming these tests are satisfied, here is a summary of the roadmap, “**Four Steps**” and provisional dates.

Step 1

8 March 2021

- Schools and colleges are open for all students.
- Recreation or exercise outdoors with household or one other person.
- General stay at home order remains in force subject to support bubble exceptions.
- Funerals (max. 30 people) and weddings (max. 6 people)

29 March 2021

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No multiple household mixing indoors.
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities can open.
- Organised outdoor sport allowed (adults and children).
- Minimise travel and no holidays.

Step 2

At least 5 weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April 2021

- Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups.
- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No multiple household mixing indoors.
- Outdoor attractions such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas can re-open.
- Libraries and community centres can re-open.
- Personal care premises can re-open.
- All retail can re-open.
- Outdoor hospitality can re-open.
- Domestic overnight stays (household only).
- Self-contained accommodation (household only).
- Funerals (max. 30 people) and weddings (max. 15 people).
- Minimise travel. No international holidays.

Step 3

At least 5 weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May 2021

- Indoor entertainment and attractions can re-open.
- 30 person limit to meet outdoors. Rule of 6 or two households can meet indoors (subject to review).
- Domestic overnight stays.
- Organised indoor adult sport.
- Life events max. 30 people.
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances).
- Remaining accommodation, including bed and breakfasts.
- Some large events (subject to capacity limits).
- International travel (subject to review).

Step 4

At least 5 weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June 2021

- No legal limits on social contact.
- Nightclubs can re-open.
- Larger events.
- No legal limits on life events.