

## The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy

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### Introduction

The UK Government published its plan for easing coronavirus lockdown measures on 11 May 2020. 'Our Plan to Rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy' includes an outline of when different parts of the economy can reopen, plans to develop smarter controls to limit the spread of coronavirus, and advice on social distancing. This factsheet provides an overview of the Government's recovery strategy.

### A phased recovery

The UK Government has set out a phased COVID-19 recovery strategy. England is currently exiting phase one of the Government's response and moving into phase two, which will gradually replace the existing social restrictions with smarter measures to control the outbreak.

As part of phase two, the UK Government has set out a three-step approach for easing lockdown restrictions in England:

- From 13 May, anyone who cannot work from home, such as workers in the construction and manufacturing sectors, should be encouraged to return to work. The only exceptions to this are those workplaces such as hospitality, personal care and non-essential retail, which the Government is requiring to remain closed. In addition, those who can work from home should continue to do so.
- From 1 June at the earliest, the UK Government will start the phased reopening of schools and non-essential retail. Some cultural and sporting events will also be permitted to take place behind closed-doors, while more local public transport will be reopened in urban areas. The Government will publish further guidance on which businesses will be covered in each phase and the timeframes involved.
- From 4 July at the earliest, the Government will reopen some of the remaining businesses 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).

The exact timing and implementation of measures and adjustments during phase two will depend on the most up to date assessment of the risk posed by coronavirus. Phase three will come into effect when reliable treatment for COVID-19 is available.

### Reopening businesses and returning to work

#### COVID-19 Secure guidelines

Businesses that reopen will be required to follow COVID-19 Secure guidelines, which are safety guidelines that set out how each type of physical space can be adapted to operate safely. The guidelines will help keep the risk of infection as low as possible, as well as support people to return to work safely.

The UK Government has been consulting relevant sectors, industry bodies, local authorities, trade unions, the Health and Safety Executive and Public Health England on their development. The eight guides cover a range of different types of work:

- Construction and outdoor work
- Factories, plants and warehouses

- Labs and research facilities
- Offices and contact centres
- Working in other people's homes
- Restaurants offering takeaway or delivery
- Shops and branches
- Vehicles

To read the guidance, go to [www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19).

### **Travelling to work**

When travelling to work, people should continue to avoid public transport wherever possible. If they can, people should cycle, walk or drive to work to limit the number of people with whom they come into close contact.

Social distancing guidance on public transport must be followed. People should also aim to wear a face-covering on public transport.

### **Other measures announced**

The UK Government has announced a number of other measures and changes to lockdown restrictions in England as part of its recovery plan, including:

- From 13 May, people may exercise outside as many times a day as they wish, and may drive to outdoor open spaces irrespective of distance. However, everyone must follow social distancing guidelines when outside the home.
- From 13 May, people may meet one other person from a different household outdoors, following social distancing guidelines.
- People should aim to wear a face-covering in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not always possible, such as on public transport or in some shops.
- Clinically vulnerable people should continue to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their households.
- Reviewing more stringent enforcement measures for non-compliance with social distancing measures.
- New measures and restrictions at the UK border to manage the risk of transmissions being reintroduced from abroad.

### **Further information**

Cabinet Office: 'Our Plan to Rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy'

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/884171/FINAL\\_6.6\\_637\\_CO\\_HMG\\_C19\\_Recovery\\_FINAL\\_110520\\_v2\\_WEB\\_1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884171/FINAL_6.6_637_CO_HMG_C19_Recovery_FINAL_110520_v2_WEB_1_.pdf)

Cabinet Office: 'Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>



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