

The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy

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 outlined a phased COVID-19 recovery strategy. As part of phase two, the UK Government has set out a three-step approach for easing lockdown restrictions in England:

- Since 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 which the Government is requiring to remain closed. Those who can work from home should continue to do so.
- On 1 June, the UK Government started the phased reopening of some areas of the economy. From 15 June, non-essential retailers will be able to reopen as long as they are able to demonstrate measures are in place to control coronavirus-related risks.
- From 4 July, the Government will reopen some of the remaining businesses that have been required to close, including personal care (such as hairdressers), hospitality (such as food service providers, pubs and accommodation) and some leisure facilities (like cinemas).

For the full list of businesses and venues that must remain closed, go to

www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance.

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 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, pubs, bars and takeaway services
- Shops and branches
- Vehicles
- Close contact services
- The visitor economy
- Hotels and other guest accommodation

To read the guidance, go to 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. Passengers are also required to wear a face-covering on public transport in England from 15 June.

Other measures announced

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

- From 4 July, two households will be able to meet up in any setting. Social distancing should be followed when in contact with people from outside your support bubble or household.
- From 4 July, where it is not possible to stay two metres apart, guidance will allow people to keep a social distance of ‘one metre plus’. This means staying one metre apart, plus mitigations which reduce the risk of transmission.
- Some “close proximity” venues will need to remain closed. The Government is working with these sectors to establish taskforces to help them become COVID Secure and reopen as soon as possible.
- People should aim to wear a face-covering in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not always possible, such as in some shops.
- From 4 July, certain businesses will be required to capture contact details from customers for track and trace.
- Measures 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

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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