

## **4 JULY CHANGES**

### **Q&A**

#### **2M REVIEW**

- Where it is possible to remain 2m away from others outside your household or support bubble, you should continue to do so.
- But we recognise this isn't possible all the time in all settings and workplaces, and we have seen a continuous fall in the number of cases, infections and deaths.
- That's why, from 4 July, our advice is changing to state that people should either stay 2m apart or '1m plus' – which is one metre plus mitigations.
- These mitigations will depend on the workplace or setting. For example, on public transport, people must wear a face covering, as it is not always possible to stay 2m apart.
- In other spaces, mitigations could include installing screens, making sure people face away from each other, putting up handwashing facilities, minimising the amount of time you spend with people outside your household or bubble, and being outdoors.
- We have set out COVID-secure guidance to help businesses take the measures that are right for them.

#### **Q. What is the impact of the 1m+ rule on Test and Trace?**

- There should be no impact. With the right mitigations, the risks associated with 1m distancing can be brought down to be equal with 2m distancing.

#### **Q. Have SAGE/CMO/CSA approved this?**

- The Government has decided to change the guidance surrounding the 2m social distancing review following the outcome of an official review.
- The review panel included the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, the Chief Medical Officer, and both took part in the Ministerial discussions on this issue.

#### **Q: Why didn't you just reduce the guidance to 1m? Isn't that effectively what you're doing?**

- No. We are clear that 2m distance is preferable, where possible, as it reduces the risk of transmission.
- However, with the right mitigations, the risks associated with 1m distancing can be brought down to be equal with 2m distancing.
- Where businesses, sites or settings need to operate at 1m to be viable, they should do so, provided they put in place the appropriate mitigations.

#### **Q: What will you do if R goes up? Will you ask everyone to go back to 2m social distancing?**

- We have been taking a phased, cautious approach to easing measures, so that we do not risk a second peak of the virus.
- If there are widespread breaches of the rules which lead to the virus threatening to run out of control, these easements will be the first to be reversed.

**Q: How are you going to make sure that employees are properly protected if they have to go back to work at distances of less than 2m?**

- It is for each business to carry out its own risk assessment, in consultation with their workers, to inform the actions they should take to reduce the risks of COVID-19.
- All companies have the same obligations to protect the health and safety of their workers and other people who may be affected by their business.
- If anyone has concerns that employers are not taking all reasonably practicable steps to reduce the risks of COVID-19, they should get in touch with their employee representative or union, or with the Health and Safety Executive.
- Employers should carry out a risk assessment in consultation with their workers and unions to inform what actions to take, to give the best combination of protection from their usual risks as well as the risks of COVID-19.

**Q: How are you going to police the system? How can HSE possibly have enough capacity to deal with complaints? And what if employees don't feel able to complain about their working conditions?**

- If employees continue to have concerns, they can raise them with their employer, any union safety representatives, or ultimately with the enforcing organisation - the Health and Safety Executive or their local authority.
- We have announced an additional £14m is available for the HSE for extra call centre staff, inspectors, and equipment
- We have provided £3.2bn to councils to support their response to the pandemic, recognising the additional costs and pressures they face.

**Enforcement**

**So the police can no longer enforce the 6-person limit?**

- No. We're asking people to do the right thing, and respect the guidelines, to keep those around them safe. If that doesn't happen we risk seeing a rise in cases.
- And as we've said, we're prepared to put the brakes on and increase lockdown measures again if the data shows that R is increasing. And then everyone will lose out.

**Is there new guidance going to the police?**

- We will continue to work with the police so that they are aware of these changes.

**HOSPITALITY AND CLOSE CONTACT SERVICES**

**Hospitality:**

- All pubs, restaurants, bars, and cafes in England can begin to offer on-site services to customers from Saturday 4 July, as long as they follow the COVID-secure guidelines.
- This includes both outdoor and indoor spaces. Customers should provide contact details to the business and they should be seated at tables when indoors.
- People can go to these venues indoors as a household/bubble or with another household/bubble.
- Outdoors, people can meet in groups of up to 6 from as many households.

- Large scale social gathering should not happen - for example, hotels should not be opening their banqueting services.
- Conference centres, exhibition centres, and nightclubs will not be allowed to reopen at this time, due to the risk of transmission associated with them. Some of these premises may be able to adapt to offer different and permitted services.

#### **Closed contact services:**

- Hairdressers and barbers in England can reopen from Saturday 4 July to offer hairdressing services, once they are following the COVID-secure guidelines.
- Other close contact services, including nail salons, beauty and tattoo parlours remain closed until 31 July, subject to us continuing to meet the five tests.

#### **Can customers use toilets?**

- Yes. Businesses must ensure they are cleaned regularly, with social distancing in place as far as possible and with handwashing facilities provided.

#### **Culture, leisure and sport**

##### **What does this mean for professional musicians etc?**

- Venues should not permit indoor performances, including drama, comedy and music, to take place in front of a live audience.
- The performing arts guidance and the music production guidance will provide details about how professional musicians can return to recording and rehearsals.

##### **Can amateur choirs and orchestras run again?**

- Because of the increased risk of transmission, all choirs and orchestras should not resume at this time.
- The performing arts guidance will provide details about how professional musicians can return to rehearsals, however this will not be applicable to amateur groups.
- We are working closely with industry to draft comprehensive guidance for the sector.
- We will continue to work with the sector and will keep guidance under review, based on the latest scientific evidence.

##### **Can theatres show single person live performances?**

- While theatres can reopen, performances to a live audience will not be allowed.
- Theatres may broadcast performances.
- We have set up a task force with the sector to establish a plan and timeline for how performing arts can reopen safely for both customers and performers.
- Theatres are naturally crowded by design and require more contact between people, which means it's more difficult to socially distance.
- Depending on the type of performance, there may also be additional transmission risk from aerosol transmission from either the performer(s) or their audience.

#### **Libraries**

### **Can libraries open?**

- Yes, all public service provision may begin to return to normal service, subject to COVID-19 Secure guidelines.
- Public libraries may therefore begin to reopen and resume their important services to communities, in a phased way subject to local needs and circumstances.
- We have worked directly with library services and organisations to finalise a toolkit to assist library services to plan their service restoration and recovery.

### **Sport and fitness**

#### **Do we know when watching football will return?**

- It is too early to consider fans going back to the grounds for football and other elite sport, which is why our most recently published plans focus on sport returning initially behind closed doors.
- Any change to this approach will be guided by scientific advice.
- We are having preliminary discussions on what needs for fans to return, but no timetable has been drawn up, and no decisions made, at this stage.

#### **Why can't indoor gyms open? What about leisure centres?**

- The Government fully recognises the desire of many to get back to their normal sports and fitness activities.
- That's why we recently announced that people can exercise outside with up to five others from different households, provided that strict social distancing guidelines are followed.
- We will update the public when we deem it is safe to open up indoor facilities such as leisure centres and gyms and will continue to consult the sector as our plans develop.

### **Religion**

#### **How big is the "small group" for prayer and collective worship?**

- There is no maximum number within a place of worship, as long as the premises complies with Covid secure guidelines.
- But you should go in a group of at most two households and limit your social interaction with anyone else, in order to prevent chains of transmission.

#### **Why without singing?**

- The science shows that there is an additional risk of infection where you or others are singing, chanting, shouting or conversing loudly. This applies even if others are at a distance to you.

#### **Weddings are now allowed?**

- Yes, wedding ceremonies will be allowed in locations that can be COVID-secure and where clear social distancing is in place.
- You should avoid having a large ceremony and invite no more than 20 close family and friends.

#### **Any change to policy on funerals?**

- In line with our policy on 'life-cycle ceremonies', such as weddings and baptisms, there should be no more than 20 people attending a funeral.

### **Community Spaces**

#### **Which community centres can reopen?**

- All community centres or youth clubs are able to open provided they can be COVID-19 secure, social distancing is in place and people can comply with the wider limits on gatherings, limiting their social interaction with others..
- Certain activities should not be taking place however, such as yoga, fitness or dance classes.

#### **Why no yoga or dance?**

- There is a higher transmission risk when undertaking physical activity indoors that causes high rates of respiratory exertion.