

As we ease out of lockdown and the economy looks to return to normal the Government has produced [guidance on reopening businesses and venues in England](#). The new [Regulations](#) which sets out the roadmap out of the current lockdown for England. This guidance has been put in place with indicative dates as to when each step will take place, based on certain data points being met ahead of these dates.

Currently, England is still in a national lockdown. You must stay at home, leaving only where permitted by law, and follow the rules in the [National Lockdown guidance](#). You should refer to the [closures guidance](#) for the latest rules for closing certain businesses and venues in England.

Within the roadmap there are indicative, 'no earlier than' dates for Steps 2, 3 and 4. of in the roadmap. This is because these are contingent on the data and subject to change. This guidance sheet details at which steps different childcare and supervised activities can commence and the necessary actions that need to be taken to create a COVID secure operation.

Please note, this guidance applies to wraparound Childcare and Out of School Settings, including: Breakfast Clubs, Tea Clubs, Holiday Clubs, Children's sport activities, Tuition and learning centres, Extra-curricular clubs, Uniformed organisations, Supplementary schools, Private language schools, Religious settings offering educations and Community Activities.

Key dates:

Step 1: From 8th March 2021

Indoor and outdoor face-to-face childcare and out of school settings restricted. Only allowed for vulnerable children/parents working/in education/home educated children/to allow parents to take exams/qualifications/medical appointments. Businesses eligible to host childcare and supervised activities for children, such as community centres or libraries will be able to do this, but only for the reasons listed above.

From March 29th

Outdoor provision available to all children, without restrictions on the purpose for which they may attend. Formally organised **outdoor sport** is allowed with a larger number of participants provided that appropriate steps are taken to make it COVID – Secure. This will allow children's sports teams and clubs to resume. Indoor facilities such as changing rooms should not be used at this time, although toilet facilities can be used. Please note spectators are not allowed at this time.

Businesses eligible to host childcare and supervised activities for children will now be able to host all children's activities and **outdoor** parent-child groups for up to 15 people, (not counting those aged under five).



Step 2: No earlier than the 12th of April

The government's intention is then for out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare providers to be able offer provision to all children, without restriction on the reasons for which they may attend, from the start of the school summer term. This will be no earlier than 12 April, and will be confirmed as part of Step 2 of the [COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021](#).

For venue specific guidance please see further reading at towards the end of this document.

Step 3: No earlier than the 17th of May

Additional indoor entertainment and visitor attractions will re-open, which may have previously been used for supervised activities for children meaning these activities can resume. For example: Marwell Activity Centre; play areas, including soft play centres; indoor attractions at zoos.

Reopening

Before reopening in line with the Spring Roadmap, businesses should look into the following areas to ensure they are operating in a COVID secure way.

Protective measures

Providers should look into their procedures and build a COVID secure Risk assessment which will include the types of protective measures that will be put in place to reduce the risk of transmission. Read [carrying out a risk assessment](#) for more information. Dependent upon individual circumstances and the progression along the roadmap, criteria to bear in mind may include:

- the type of the activity they offer - for example whether children will be moving around rather than sitting at desks
- group size
- the size and layout of their premises
- whether the activity is being held indoors or outdoors

The key measures that every setting should have in place are:

- minimising contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the setting
- ensuring face coverings are used in recommended circumstances - read the section on [face coverings](#) for detail on the circumstances where this is recommended
- encouraging staff and children to clean their hands thoroughly and more often - soap or hand sanitiser should be readily available
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces more than usual. If multiple groups are operating through out the day, a changeover time should be allocated to allow for deep cleaning.



- Cleaning shared equipment frequently, or quarantined and left unused for 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different groups
- increased cleaning of toilets and washrooms
- using social distancing to reduce contact and mixing between groups of children
- keeping children in the same bubbles they are in during the school day where possible, or otherwise in small, consistent groups up to 15 children to one adult ratio. Group size information for children under 5 can be found in further reading.
- keeping occupied spaces well ventilated, and where possible take activities outdoors
- promoting and engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process
- managing and reporting confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- containing any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Venue-specific guidance

If your out-of-school setting takes place in one of the following premises, you should also follow:

- [guidance for places of worship](#)
- [guidance for community centres, village halls and other multi-purpose community facilities](#)
- [guidance for providers of grassroots sport and leisure facilities](#)
- [actions for schools during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)
- [guidance on working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in other people's homes](#)

Providers operating out of these premises should work with the relevant parties (for example, the owner or voluntary management committee) to agree on and distribute responsibility for protective measures to help prevent the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)..

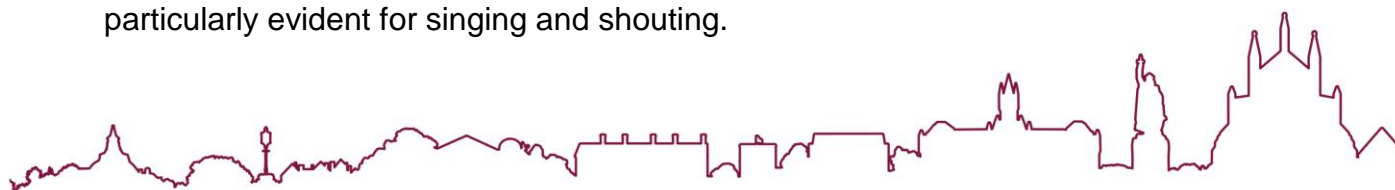
Group Specific guidance:

Sports provision

From 29 March, as set out in the [COVID-19 response – Spring 2021 guidance](#), all outdoor sports provision will be able to be accessed by all children without restriction on the purposes for which they may attend. However, restrictions on access to indoor provision will remain.

Music, dance and drama provision

There may be an additional risk of infection in environments where singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments, dance or drama take place. There is now some evidence that additional risk can build from aerosol transmission with volume and, in particular, with the combined numbers of individuals within a confined space. This is particularly evident for singing and shouting.



When planning this provision, you should therefore consider additional safety measures; and should ensure you follow the measures in this guidance and read the guidance on [working safely in performing arts](#) to reduce any risks of aerosol transmission.

A useful guide to safely manage children in music, dance and drama activities can be found towards the end of this [page](#)

Additional matters to consider

Antiviral Disinfection Guide for Businesses

There has been some confusion about which suitable disinfectants will kill the COVID-19 organism. We have also found in many cases, although the product is suitable, the instructions for use are not being followed and consequently the product is ineffective. We have therefore produced a list of products that are suitable for killing the Covid19 virus, together with useful information on how long the product must be left on the surface before wiping clean. This can be found [here](#).

Further Guidance and additional Reading:

Government guidance specific for those offering childcare and supervised activities for children:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Protective measures for those offering childcare and supervised activities:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

What parents can expect from your organisation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Guidance for organizations on group sizes for children under 5

Providers caring for children:

- under 5 years only should refer to the guidance for [early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)
- both under 5 years and aged 5 years and over, in mixed groups together, should follow this guidance and keep children in small consistent groups. The section on [considering group sizes](#) contains more information.

