

**Changes to Covid-19 Legislation
Update on the Roadmap
12 April 2021**



A brief update for Variety Artists and Entertainers

England

Step 2 – from Monday 12th April 2021

The key changes for entertainers

- Outdoor hospitality venues can open.
- Outdoor supervised activities for children for eligible businesses.
- Outdoor gatherings or events, by a business, charity, public body or similar organisation, can be organised, subject to specific conditions with Covid-secure environment and maintenance of social distancing.
- Theme Parks, Zoos, Drive-In cinemas and performance events and other outdoor attractions can open.
- Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms can open.
- All children will be able to attend any indoor children's activity, including sport, regardless of circumstance.
- Non-essential retail and personal care can open.
- Weddings and other formal commemorations restricted to 15 people, funeral services up to 30 people.

The effects on entertainment being the following:-

- Doorstep entertainment – Already permitted from 29th March
- Small outdoor entertainment performances – Rule of 6 – Already permitted From 29th March
- Drive-in entertainment eg. Theatre and comedy – from 12th April
- Incidental live music at outdoor hospitality venues – from 12th April
- Children's outdoor activities for eligible businesses – from 12th April
- Business / Charity / local authority organised outdoor Covid-secure events – from 12th April
- Busking and street performance – not permitted at this step

Comments

The indoor children's activities that are permitted from 12th April are largely those are related to childcare, educational and sporting activities normally those organised by businesses and organisations that were not required to close during lockdown because they qualified for an exemption but may only have been open to the children of critical workers. Examples of activities that may go ahead from 12th April are dance and music classes, cubs, scouts and brownies and mother and baby groups and other out of school settings.

General children's parties in private gardens are limited to the rule of 6 currently.

Similar to when lockdown started to be relaxed in the summer of 2020 businesses, charities, local authorities are able to organise outdoor events using Covid-secure guidelines which could allow professional entertainers to organise such events.

The next steps in England are:-

Step 3 – from no earlier than 17th May 2021

- Indoor hospitality can open.
- Indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas can open.
- Remaining outdoor theatres and events can open – capacity restrictions still in place.
- Touring tented circuses can open with capacity restrictions.
- Controlled socially distanced indoor events including theatre performances of up to 1,000 people or 50% of a venue's capacity, whichever is lower, will be permitted, as will socially distanced outdoor events with a capacity of either 50% or 4,000 people, whichever is lower.
- Special provision for large, outdoor, seated venues where crowds can be safely distributed, allowing up to 10,000 people or 25% of total seated capacity, whichever is lower.
- People can meet outdoors up to groups of 30.
- Weddings, funerals, wakes, christenings, bar mitzvahs and other stand-alone significant life events can go ahead with up to 30 people
- People can meet indoors up to 6 people or 1 other household.
- Working from home continues.

Step 4 – from no earlier than 21st June 2021

- Restrictions generally lifted on social contact.
- Reopen the remaining closed settings, including nightclubs and enable large events, including theatre performances, above the Step 3 capacity restrictions.
- Some events remain under review and subject to research where social distancing is difficult and there are large crowd sizes such as sporting events, festivals, concerts, conferences and large weddings.

All dates are subject to change.

Useful Official Links

[COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 \(Summary\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary)

[Reopening businesses and venues - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reopening-businesses-and-venues)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Organised events guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities)

[Protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protective-measures-for-holiday-and-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak)

Other UK Nations in brief

Wales

Up to six people from no more than two households (excluding any carers or children under 11 from either of those households) can meet outdoors at any one time including private gardens. Indoors you should not meet anyone from outside your household or support bubble. Gatherings of more than six people from two households are also permitted to enable any organised outdoor activities for the development and wellbeing children. If the public health conditions remain favourable organised outdoor activities for up to 30 adults will be permitted from 26 April.

All shops and close contact services such as hairdressers were permitted to open from 12th April.

Indoor and outdoor hospitality remains closed.

Theatres, cinemas and concert halls remain closed other than for recording and live streaming.

Some outdoor visitor attractions are permitted to open.

[Current restrictions: frequently asked questions | GOV.WALES](#)

[Business closures: current restrictions | GOV.WALES](#)

Scotland

From 26th April 2021 there is some relaxation in restrictions as all areas are expected to move from level 4 to level 3. This does not give much opportunity for entertainers. Social gatherings are limited to 6 people / 2 households. From 17th May there is expected to be further moves down to level 2 which would mean rules on social gatherings further relaxed and the possibility (to be confirmed) of indoor and outdoor entertainment taking place on a small scale. Concert halls, comedy clubs and theatres could be reopened but that has not been confirmed.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local protection levels - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Strategic Framework update - February 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[COVID-19+protection+levels+-+summary+information+on+what+you+can+and+cannot+do.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-film-and-high-end-tv-production/>

Northern Ireland

Currently households are not allowed to mix indoors (other than support bubbles). Outdoors, up to 10 people (including children) from no more than two households can meet up in a private garden, social distancing should be maintained. From 30 April this will increase to up to 15 people (including children) from no more than three households. Hospitality venues such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs must remain closed, with the exception of providing food and drink for takeaway, drive-through or delivery. From 30th April outdoor areas at hospitality venues (cafes, restaurants, bars, pubs, social clubs, including in members' clubs) can reopen. A maximum of six people from two households can be seated together. Children aged 12 and under are not counted in the total and more than six will also be permitted if they all belong to a single household.

Currently, leisure and entertainment venues such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, amusement arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, skating rinks, inflatable parks, go-karting venues, soft play centres, fairgrounds and funfairs, indoor museums, galleries, visitor and other cultural attractions are not permitted to open. Outdoor visitor attractions are not permitted to open, along with drive-in events.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>

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