



## 10 DOWNING STREET

### PRIME MINISTER

Please see attached the proposed approach for the 15 August reopenings. The recommendation is to proceed with the openings we delayed from 1 August, but do it in a low key way with continued cautious messaging, and balanced with tougher messaging on enforcement.

We want to announce the reopenings today to give sectors notice, so if you agree with the recommendation, we'll put wheels in motion.

We will need to handle the Health Secretary if you do agree to open as he is likely to continue to want a more cautious approach (as do Chris and Patrick). I'll speak to his office once you've provided a steer, and you may want to text him too to say you have taken his views into consideration but on balance wish to proceed.

Simon & I are happy to talk through any of this as helpful.

**Imran Shafi**  
**13 August 2020**

**ACTION**

**15 AUGUST CHANGES**

*Date: 13 August 2020*

*From: Katie Waring*

*Deadline: 13 August 2020*

**SUMMARY**

1. A decision is needed on whether to proceed with the reopenings that were postponed from 1 August to 15 August 'at the earliest'.
2. Whilst the latest ONS data suggests that the number of infections may have levelled off (prevalence at 0.05%) after recent growth, indications are that R may be above 1 in England. Any further reopenings increase the risk of growth in transmission. Consistency in Government messaging remains essential. These decisions are set against the priority of schools returning in three weeks' time.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. Balancing the economic, social and health impacts, we recommend that the following should be allowed to reopen from 15 August:
  - **Bowling, ice skating, casinos and indoor soft play.** Indoor soft play was not in the original roadmap list but guidance has since been developed, and highest risk activities (e.g. ball pools) would remain closed.
  - **Remaining close contact services (e.g. eyebrow threading),** with the introduction of more PPE in these settings to address higher risks.
3. There are three further steps which carry greater risk in terms of transmission and optics, as they bring together larger groups. The decision is finely balanced given the higher risk nature of these settings and activities, balanced with the economic risks if they do not restart some activity soon. On balance we recommend that these should proceed, but you should be aware of the risks in doing so and the CMO and GCSA's view that we should be cautious. To mitigate, the reopening should be accompanied by strong messaging on caution, the need for compliance with guidelines, and a warning they may need to be paused if transmission increases:
  - **Restarting indoor performances with social distancing in place.** This would include all sizes of venues (e.g. including the O2). A more cautious approach could restrict openings by a numbers cap (DCMS would propose 500).
  - **Allowing wedding receptions,** in the form of a sit-down meal in a COVID-secure location, for up to 30 guests. This carries a risk of contradicting messaging on limiting social contact between households.

- **Resuming pilots for business and sporting events**, subject to sign-off by DCMS and No 10 on planned events. This programme could be scaled back to allow only small events at this stage. All pilots should be paused in areas where local restrictions are applied. CMO advises that the risk of larger events is the potential for mixing before and after (eg going to the pub after an event).
4. To balance the messaging, at the same time at these changes, we recommend we should announce that in the coming weeks the Government plans to:
- **Double fines for repeat offences of not wearing face coverings**. This change would bring them into line with regulations for other offences.
  - **Introduce a new fine for hosting or facilitating gatherings of over 30**, to tackle the more egregious breaches around illegal raves and house parties. This will be a flat £10,000. Collective agreement for both changes is expected later today.

## BACKGROUND

5. The latest ONS survey estimates that an average of 1 in 1,900 people had COVID between 3-9 August, with a weekly average of 3,800 new infections a day. This is unchanged since last week prevalence (number of people with the virus) is assessed to have levelled off following small increases through July. This is lower than was judged two weeks ago (1 in 1,500 people) when the 1 August changes were postponed, but it is higher than the point at which we published the new chapter to the roadmap (1 in 2,300) where we said we would only proceed with this step if prevalence remained ‘around or below’ those levels. An aggregate of data sources suggest that there may be increases in incidence (the number of people being infected): the dashboard data on 11 August showed the highest number of infections in 8 weeks (1,148 cases), however increased testing may be affecting this, and the proportion of people testing positive has been flat for the last week. Current indications are that R may be above 1 in England, and it is possible that these changes could push this higher. The impact of these changes will not be felt until schools have returned.
6. While COVID-secure guidance has been developed for these settings, this does not mean that they are risk-free. This decision should be taken with due consideration to the priority of reopening schools in September. The CMO advises caution. On 31 July he noted publicly that ‘we’ve probably reached near the limits or the limit of what we can do in terms of opening up society’. He maintains the view that we are near the limits of what we can open before we start to get an increase in cases at the same time as schools go back, given that positivity rates are creeping up. The GCSA advises that some of these activities are high risk, and notes the risk of mixed messaging if we are relaxing restrictions in some areas while simultaneously tightening in others. We expect the Health Secretary to share this view.

**PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS:**

I give not the  
great but the  
**OVERRIDING MESSAGE**  
should be about  
to higher enforcement  
and **BIGGER FINES**  
we need powerful statements  
of basic messages  
with the requirement  
to key second  
pillars

cc: Mark Sedwill  
Martin Reynolds  
Stuart Glassborow  
Imran Shafi

Patrick Curry  
James Slack  
Jamie Davies  
Simon Case  
Ed Lister  
Dominic Cummings  
Munira Mirza

Cleo Watson  
Lee Cain  
Jack Doyle  
Ben Gascoigne  
Meg Powell-Chandler

David Frost  
NR  
NR

Measure	Recommendation
Bowling, ice skating, casinos, softplay	<b>Reopen from 15 August.</b> Guidance is in place to reduce transmission risks, though some risk remains. These sectors have been hard hit and at risk of insolvencies.
Indoor performances	<b>Restart from 15 August.</b> Pilots have demonstrated effective implementation of guidance. 57% of arts businesses have seen 100% decline in revenue during the pandemic. Capping numbers at c. 500 would help the smaller venues whilst mitigating presentational or other risks associated with large crowds.
Business events pilots	<b>Start from 15 August.</b> The UK events sector has already lost around £10bn during the crisis. Two initial pilots will be lower risk, with c.100 attendees.
Sports stadia pilots	<b>Restart from 15 August.</b> DCMS forecasts lost income at around £200 million for EFL clubs, with some at risk of closing. Not proceeding with the pilots would make the 1 October full return set out in the roadmap very unlikely - GCSA and DCMOs consider that this timeline is too ambitious. CMO is more relaxed about outdoor rather than indoor events.
Remaining Close Contact Services, including facial treatments	<b>Enable remaining services to resume.</b> New guidance requires more PPE. Low compliance is a risk: the sector is reporting only 40% compliance levels. The beauty sector has a high proportion of BAME (18%) and female (93%) employment.
Sit-down meals (up to 30 people) for wedding receptions	<b>Allow small, sit-down wedding receptions.</b> There is a risk of more socialising between households but there are social and economic costs of not proceeding.

**APPENDIX - Proposed Sporting Pilots**

The table below sets out DCMS’ current planned list of phase 2 Sports Pilots. These will be subject to approval from relevant government departments (PHE, JBC, DCMOs, DHSC, DfT, Cabinet Office) and local authorisations. It is possible some pilots may move location if the original planned location is considered too close to an area of local lockdown.

As per advice, a more cautious approach could be taken to scale back the programme whilst still signalling momentum to the sector. In order of preference, DCMS proposed options are:

- A. Progressing the below programme - enables testing of measures with larger audiences following the success of initial pilots with lower numbers across varied settings;
- B. Scaling back the programme to a limited number of events and/or attendees - enables further testing of measures and signals momentum;

Continuing to pause the programme - manages perception risks.

<b>Proposed events</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Audience Size</b>
<b>Snooker</b> Finals - World Snooker Championships (Sheffield Crucible Theatre)	15-16 Aug	260 per day
<b>Football</b> Approx. 20 matches at various venues across Premier League, EFL, National League and Women's Game (phase 1 of pilots)	21 Aug - mid Sept	Approx 2,000 - 10,000 depending on venue
<b>Rugby Union</b> Bristol (Bristol v Exeter) Twickenham (Harlequins v Bath) Coventry (Wasps v Leicester)	25 Aug 5 Sept 9 Sept	5,600 max
<b>Horse Racing</b> Goodwood St Leger Meeting, Doncaster	29 Aug 9 - 12 Aug	5,000 5,000 day 1 rising to 9,000 day 4
<b>Rugby League</b> Warrington, Cheshire (double header) Warrington, Cheshire (triple header)	29 Aug 30 Aug	Approx 3,800