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# Covid in Scotland: Stay at home rule lifted after three months

🕒 2 April 2021

## Coronavirus



PA MEDIA

| Signs on the Queensferry Crossing highlighted the "stay local" message

**The stay at home rule which has been in place in Scotland for more than three months has been lifted.**

People have been told to "stay local" and to remain within their local authority boundaries for the next three weeks.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the vaccination programme's progress had been "better than we could have dared hope for back at the turn of the year".

However, she also warned that there were "no grounds for complacency".

On Friday another 414 new cases of Covid-19 were reported and four new deaths of people who had tested positive.

Ms Sturgeon said: "It is really important right now that while the vaccination programme continues to be rolled out, all of us remain hyper-vigilant in how we're going about our daily lives."



Police were on patrol in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Park as people enjoyed the sunshine

Police Scotland's Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham issued a warning ahead of the Easter weekend, urging people to stay local unless for essential purposes.

He said: "While Easter weekend is traditionally a time for visiting friends and family, I would urge people to stay local and follow the regulations on gatherings.

"If you are visiting beauty spots within your local area, do so safely and respectfully - leaving no trace of your visit. Please also park responsibly to allow emergency access."

Police in Edinburgh also said increased patrols would continue following a **spate of anti-social behaviour incidents** on or near public transport.

- [New vaccine to arrive in Scotland next week](#)
  - [Where are the latest cases in Scotland?](#)
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## How are the numbers looking in Scotland?

The Scottish government's weekly [State of the Epidemic in Scotland](#) document pulls together the most recent statistics from a range of sources. Here are the key points:

- The R number, which measures the reproduction rate of the virus, is estimated to be between 0.8 and 1, unchanged from the previous week
  - An average of 505 cases were reported per day in the last week, a fall of 7% on the previous seven days.
  - The number of weekly cases per 100,000 people has fallen from 302 on 8 January to 66 in the week ending 28 March, similar to the rates seen last September.
  - Scotland no longer has the highest infection rate in the UK, having been overtaken by Northern Ireland, according to the ONS weekly survey - but the rate remains higher than in England and Wales.
  - Average daily deaths per 100,000 of population in Scotland stand at 0.1 - higher than in England, Wales and Northern Ireland where the rate is 0.07
  - Clackmannanshire had the highest case rate last week (165 per 100,000). Previously the highest rate was in West Lothian.
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Prof Nick Hopkins, who sits on the Scottish government's Covid-19 advisory group, told [the BBC's Good Morning Scotland programme](#) there was "a lot to be optimistic about".

He said: "The vaccine rollout gives us enormous cause for hope, but hope is not the same as wishful thinking.

"We need to recognise that there is still a reality out there and we need to be very mindful of those risks and continue to be careful, to monitor our behaviour, to follow the guidelines."



# Lockdown easing in Scotland: Key dates



## 26 March

Communal worship allowed for up to 50 people

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## 2 April

Current stay at home advice changes to stay local

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## 5 April

12 to 17-year-olds can play contact sports outdoors

Phased return for universities and colleges



Hairdressers can reopen

Garden centres and some other non-essential retail can reopen

Click and collect resumes

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## 19 April

All pupils expected to be back full time after Easter holidays

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## 26 April

Return to levels system



Travel allowed within mainland Scotland

People shielding can return to work or education



Non-essential retail, pubs and restaurants to reopen

Gyms, swimming pools and other leisure activities resume

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## 17 May

Four people from two households can meet indoors



## Adults can play contact sports outdoors

### Cinemas and bingo halls can reopen

Source: Scottish government

BBC

Shops will be allowed to resume click and collect services.



SIMONE CLARIDGE/PA WIRE

| The Meadows in Edinburgh was a popular destination on Friday

In addition, outdoor contact sports for 12 to 17-year-olds can start again and college students will be able to return to in-person teaching for practical subjects.

It is expected that all school pupils will return full-time after the Easter holidays. Those in secondary schools had been attending part-time in recent weeks.

The easing of the level four restrictions in Scotland will have a minimum gap of three weeks between phases, and will be assessed using conditions set out by the World Health Organization.

In February, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a **four-step plan** which could see all legal limits on social contact lifted by 21 June in England.

Each stage in his routemap will be a minimum of five weeks apart, with conditions that must be met before proceeding to the next step.

The stay at home rule in England was eased on 29 March, although the government advice was to "minimise travel".

## More about coronavirus



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- CASES: Where are the latest cases in Scotland?
- WHO? The people who have died with Covid-19

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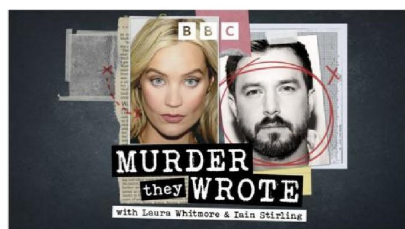


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