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PAPER (1)

SOCIAL DISTANCING ROADMAP: STEP TWO

PAPER BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Summary

1. On 11 May 2020 the UK Government published "*Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy*" which set out a carefully planned timetable for easing restrictions, contingent on successfully controlling the spread of the virus.
2. The first set of changes to the policy took effect from Wednesday 13 May. Given SAGE's advice on the rate of reproduction and the Government's assessment of its position against the five tests, the Government should indicate its intention to proceed in line with step two of the roadmap from 1 June. This is subject to the formal review of the implementing regulations later this week.

Context

3. The Government said that in step two, from 1 June at the earliest, we would consider a phased return for schools, the opening of some non-essential retail, the prospect of some cultural and sporting events behind closed doors,

and some options for increasing social contact, such as expanding household groups. We were clear in setting out these options that we would only make those changes if it was safe to do so.

4. SAGE met on Thursday 21 May and concluded:

“The best estimate of R in the UK is between 0.7 and 1.0. While it is highly likely to be under one, it could be close to it. There is little evidence of regional variation in R.... It is likely that R is less than one in all UK nations and regions”.

5. On 16 April, the Government set out five tests that would need to be met before the Government made changes to the social distancing measures:
- 1) the **NHS must be able to cope**: the Government should be confident that it is able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment right across the UK;
 - 2) a **sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates** from coronavirus so we are confident that we have moved beyond the peak;
 - 3) **reliable data from SAGE showing that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels** across the board;
 - 4) confidence that the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and PPE, are in hand, with **testing capacity continuing to rise** and **PPE supply able to meet future demand**; and
 - 5) **confidence that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak** of infections that overwhelm the NHS.
6. Tests 1- 4 have been met, and test 5 is contingent on proceeding in line with the proposed easing of measures below. In addition, by 1 June we will have a test and trace system in place.
7. We are therefore in a position to move to step 2 in a careful and phased way, making progress in each of the areas set out in the roadmap. The

Government will continue to proceed with caution and will keep these proposals under continuous review in the context of the latest scientific advice regarding the spread of the virus.

Step Two: Approach

8. **On schools**, we have worked closely with early years settings and schools and have published detailed guidance to ensure that they can re-open in a way that is safe for students and staff. Children in early years' settings, reception, Y1, and Y6, in England can now return to school from Monday 1 June. To support their remote learning schools can, from 15 June, bring in all their year 10 and 12 pupils for some face to face contact. Home learning should remain the predominant mode of learning during this time with schools able to bring in up to a quarter of the year 10/12 cohort at any one time.
9. We recognise that there are different factors to consider in different parts of the country, including the prevalence of the virus, so we will enable school leaders and councils to move more slowly if they believe it is necessary in their local area.
10. **On retail**, we will allow establishments to open in phases provided they fully follow COVID-19 Secure guidelines. In the first phase, from 1 June, we will allow outdoor markets to reopen, as well as car showrooms, which often have significant outdoor space and where it is generally easier to apply social distancing. From 15 June, any non-essential retail currently closed would be allowed to open if they are able to meet fully the latest Covid-19 Secure requirements.
11. The evidence shows that the risk of transmission is significantly lower outdoors, which is why we relaxed restrictions on outdoor activity earlier this month. Later in June, when we judge the sector to be adequately prepared,

we will also permit **outdoor hospitality** to reopen with strict social distancing in place.

12. We will also allow larger groups to meet outside in private gardens and public spaces, provided social distancing guidelines are observed.
13. From 1 June we will also be able to permit elite sport to resume behind closed doors. We will make other changes to the regulations to ensure consistency with the policy outlined above and to ensure clarity in relation to specific types of closed premises.