

DCMS Museums and Galleries Sector Coronavirus bulletin

15 September 2020

Museums & Cultural Property COVID-19 Response Mailbox
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1. Key updates

NEW [PM press conference statement: 09/09](#)

NEW [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): What has changed – 9 September: 09/09](#)

NEW [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do: updated 14/09](#)

NEW [Meeting with others safely \(social distancing\): updated 14/09](#)

NEW [Coronavirus regulations: 14/09](#)

Rule of 6

- From 14 September, it is against the law to gather in a group of more than six, indoors or outdoors, unless covered by an exemption.
- A gathering will continue to be defined as where people are meeting up to either interact socially and/or engage in an activity together as a group.
- The police have the power to enforce this legal limit, including to issue fines.

There is an **exemption for work purposes** - including **business events** (though these should, for now, be limited to fewer than 30 people).

When seeing friends and family you do not live with you should:

- meet in groups of 6 or less
- follow social distancing rules if people in the group are not from the same household or support bubble
- limit how many different people you see socially over a short period of time
- meet people outdoors where practical because fresh air provides better ventilation

The rule of 6 does not mean that there cannot be more than six people doing the same activity in any one public place. Other than in a private home or garden, there can be multiple groups of six people doing the same activity provided that these groups do not mingle.

Museums and galleries

- Museums and galleries can host larger numbers in total (in line with risk assessments and following government guidance).
- The rule of 6 still applies - that is, each group must consist of no more than 6 people (unless it is a family group or supportive bubble). This applies in all circumstances.
- A person cannot move from one group to another.
- A person cannot mingle with other people, or with other groups.
- Social distancing rules must be respected, even within groups if the people in it are not from the same household or support bubble.
- Face coverings are mandatory within museums and galleries.

These measures apply to England – but there may be different rules if you operate in an area under local lockdown and you should check those rules [here](#).

If you are in [Wales](#), [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#), different rules may apply.

NEW [Making a support bubble with another household: 09/09](#)

- Safely expand the group of people you have close contact with during the pandemic.

NEW [Venues required by law to record contact details: 10/09](#)

- From 18 September, it will be mandatory for certain businesses to have a system to collect NHS Test and Trace data, and keep this for 21 days.
- Premises and venues across England must have a system in place to record contact details of their customers, visitors and staff. The contact details include name; contact number; date of visit; arrival time; and departure time, if possible.

NEW [Businesses urged to prepare for NHS COVID-19 app: 11/09](#)

NEW [Information and resources for app](#)

- Venues across England and Wales are being urged to download QR codes to prepare for the public rollout of the new app.
- The NHS COVID-19 app is currently being trialled and will launch on Thursday 24 September in England and Wales, including QR check-in at venues.
- QR codes will be important for NHS Test and Trace (England) and NHS Test, Trace, Protect (Wales) to contact multiple people if coronavirus outbreaks identified in venues.
- The QR codes can be [downloaded via a website to display as posters in premises](#).

[Maintaining records staff, customers & visitors to support NHS Test & Trace: updated 14/09](#)

- Updated with information for organisations on displaying an official NHS QR poster.

NEW [Protect Scotland: 10/09](#)

- Confidential contact tracing app will anonymously notify app users you've been in close contact with, should you test positive. Scotland only.

NEW [New campaign to prevent spread of coronavirus indoors this winter: 09/09](#)

- The 'Hands. Face. Space' public information campaign urges the public to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates and avoid a second peak.
- It is critical that everybody observes the following key behaviours:
 - HANDS – Wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.
 - FACE – Wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you don't normally meet.
 - SPACE – Stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.

NEW [Public Health England launches new Every Mind Matters campaign: 09/09](#)

- Mental health campaign supports the wellbeing of children, young people and their parents.

NEW [AIM and the MA working together to support the kickstart scheme: 14/09](#)

- AIM and the Museums Association are working together to support the sector in accessing the [Kickstart Scheme](#), a new UK-wide initiative created by the UK government that offers fully-funded 6-month job placements to young people.

2. Guidance for reopening

[Good practice guidance for reopening museums: updated 10/09](#)

- Guidance for the museums sector in England intended to help employers, employees and the self-employed, and volunteers understand how to work safely.

Devolved nations guidance:

- [Northern Ireland: Culture and Heritage Destinations Venues: Guidance for a phased return](#)
- [Wales: Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return](#)
- [Scotland: guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions: 06/07](#)

[AIM and Museum Development checklist: 25/06](#)

- Step-by-step look at reopening considerations, in addition to and in support of the guidance

[Reopening timeline](#)

- NMDC has produced a timeline of possible stages of reopening.

[Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own: updated 27/08](#)

[Face coverings exemptions](#) and [Exemption cards or badges](#)

- Face coverings must be worn in museums and galleries in England
- Exemptions for those unable to do so. Some people may feel more comfortable showing something that says they do not have to wear a face covering. This is a personal choice, and is not necessary in law. Example exemption cards can be found [here](#).

[COVID-19 early outbreak management action cards: updated 28/08](#)

- Quick-reference guides to help you quickly identify, report and respond to any potential COVID-19 outbreak within your local community.

[Arts, Heritage and Cultural Venues action card](#)

- Download the zip folder, click on “Recreation & Leisure”, and the action card is titled Arts, Heritage and Cultural Venues.

[VisitBritain “We’re good to go” industry standard: 25/06](#)

- Apply for a free UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark to reassure your customers that your business adheres to Government and public health guidance.

[EMBED Reopening Recommendations Guidance](#)

- Created with the Disability Collaborative Network and the School of Health Sciences UEA.

International examples

- **Belgium** - Museums reopened from 19 May. Old Masters Museum [Covid-19 measures](#).
- **France** - Museums reopened from 2 June, and the Louvre on 6 July.
- **Germany** - Guidelines: [Museumsbund](#), [Brandenburg](#) museums association and [Saxony](#).
- **Ireland** - Museums reopening as part of phase 3 - 29 June with safety measures in place.
- **Italy** - Museums [reopened](#) from 18 May with [social distancing measures](#)
- **Netherlands** - [reopened](#) from 1 June. Dutch museums association reopening [protocol](#).
- **USA** - American Alliance of Museums: [information](#), [guidelines](#), [museum reopening plans](#).

[Artfund: museum and galleries reopenings: updated 28/08](#)

[Museums and galleries open in Scotland](#)

[UK cultural sector reopening v10](#)

- Visual representation of reopening of the cultural sector. Tweet by Ben Melham.

[Knowledge Quarter research](#)

- Research looking at changing visitor behaviour, with insights and read-across more widely.

Further information and guidance

- [Guidance for DCMS sectors](#)
- [Heritage locations guidance: updated 11/09](#)
- [The visitor economy guidance: updated 11/09](#)
- [Guidance on searching for archaeological finds in England: updated 10/09](#)
- [Guidance for shops and branches on reopening: updated 11/09](#)
- [Performing Arts guidance: updated 11/09](#)
- [Plans announced for London’s Covid-19 recovery: 23/05](#)

3. Funding

[£1.57bn investment to protect Britain's cultural, arts and heritage institutions: 05/07](#)

The investment includes:

- £1.15bn for cultural organisations through grants and loans
- £100m of targeted support for national cultural institutions
- £120m capital investment to restart construction
- Dedicated new funding for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

[Joint statement from NMDC, AIM and MA welcoming the funding: 06/07](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund details announced: 29/07](#)

- In first funding round £622m will be distributed:
 - [£500m via ACE](#) to museums & galleries, theatres, music & comedy orgs
 - **£92m** via National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England to heritage sites
 - **£30m** via BFI to independent cinemas
- Grants of up to £3m to protect cultural assets and ensure arts and heritage continue to play a key role in levelling up the country.

Guidance and criteria for applicants

[Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage](#)

- Jointly administered by [Historic England](#) and the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

[Cultural Recovery Fund: Repayable Finance: 14/08](#)

- Applications closed 11 September.

[British Film Institute: Culture Recovery Fund for independent cinemas](#)

- £30m for the Culture Recovery Fund for Independent Cinemas in England.
- Open for applications from Monday 3 August to Friday 30 October.

Capital Funding: 14/08

Delivered through Historic England, Arts Council England, and National Heritage Memorial Fund.

£55m Heritage Stimulus Funds

- To restart construction projects and help maintain heritage visitor attractions in England.
- Historic England [guidance](#) for their Grants for Programmes of Major Works. Up to £34m aimed at organisations that have significant groupings of nationally important historic sites.
- Grants between £1m and £10m in size.
- Applications open 14 August. Funding expected to flow to organisations in early October.
- A further £16m has been added to existing Historic England capital grant schemes.

[Cultural Capital Kickstart Fund](#)

- Applications closed 10 September.

Heritage Capital Kickstart Fund

- Run by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, it will support up to 30 heritage projects that have been paused, delayed or are at risk due to Covid-19.

England

[Arts Council England Covid-19 support](#)

- ACE are making £160 million of emergency funding available.

[ACE National Lottery Project Grants open for applications](#)

- £59.8m available for independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers.

[National Lottery Heritage Fund information: updated 14/09](#)

[Funding for councils to address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income: 02/07](#)

[Local government income compensation scheme guidance](#)

- Scheme to compensate councils in England for losses from museums and cultural assets
- All relevant losses, over and above the first 5% of planned income from sales, fees and charges, will be compensated for at a rate of 75p in every pound.

Northern Ireland

[Northern Ireland Creative Support Fund: updated 10/09](#)

[£4 million lifeline for the arts in Northern Ireland: 01/07](#)

- £4m fund for arts organisations, freelance artists, creative practitioners and performers.

[Health and Safety Capital Programme: 10/09](#)

- Arts Council of Northern Ireland £500,000 Health and Safety Capital Programme, designed to support arts and culture organisations as they prepare to re-open after lockdown.

Wales

[Welsh government's £53m Cultural Recovery Fund](#)

- Eligibility checker launched. Organisations in the culture and heritage sector can find out if they are eligible to apply for financial support. Fund consists of:
 - £18.5m for accredited museums and archive services; music venues and studios; heritage organisations and historic attractions; libraries; events and their technical support suppliers; independent cinemas and the publishing sector.
 - £7 million fund for freelancers to support individuals in the sector
 - [£27.5m fund administered by the Arts Council of Wales](#) for galleries; theatres, arts centres and concert halls; organisations producing and touring arts activity; and organisations providing participatory arts activity.

[Welsh government £18m support package for culture, creative and sport sector: 01/04](#)

- £7m [Arts Council of Wales](#) Arts Resilience Fund to support artists and arts organisations.
- £1m Cultural Resilience Fund for museums, archives and community and public libraries.
- £750k Emergency Relief Fund for independent sport, museum and heritage organisations.

Scotland

[Museums Galleries Scotland Coronavirus Guidance for Museums](#)

[Museums Galleries Scotland funding overview: 06/04](#)

- [Urgent Response COVID-19 Fund](#) - for independent accredited museums up to £60,000 to cover up to 3 months of core costs.
- [COVID-19 Adaptation Fund](#) - up to £7,500 (£10,000 for partnerships) to purchase equipment and training that will enable them to reopen safely
- [£4 Million Announced to Support Independent Museums and Galleries: 25/07](#)
Will support Accredited and non-Accredited independent museums.

Creative Scotland support:

- [£7.5m Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#): to support creative practitioners to develop work for up to 12 months with a maximum award of £50,000.
- [£10m lifeline support for Performing Arts Venues in Scotland: 03/07](#)

[AHRC Capability for Collections Fund](#)

- The Capability for Collections Fund will support a series of targeted, capital investments to renew and upgrade research facilities within UK galleries, libraries, archives and museums, including university collections, focusing on conservation and heritage science facilities, digital capture equipment and specialist study spaces and reading rooms.
- It will fund two types of activity for collections-led research in eligible institutions:
 - refresh / upgrade of major facilities, costed at up to £3 million per bid
 - urgent replacement or upgrade of core equipment and instruments, including instrumentation for spectrometry, spectroscopy, digitisation and imaging, and conservation equipment, costed at £10,000-£1 million per bid.
- Closes for applications 13 October. Projects must be completed within this Financial Year.

Other funding sources

- [Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund covid response](#)
- [Art Fund: Respond and reimagine grants: 16/06](#)
- [Paul Hamlyn Foundation Contingency Fund: updated 28/05](#)
- [Wolfson Foundation £10m Covid-19 Support Fund: 10/07](#)
- [Museum Freelance Covid-19 Hardship Fund](#)

4. Government strategy

[Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy: updated 24/07](#)

- Working from home guidelines left to discretion of individual employers and employees
- Public transport use no longer advised against but alternatives encouraged where possible
- From October, conferences and other business events allowed to recommence
- Review of outstanding restrictions and allow more significant return to normality from November at the earliest.

All progress is subject to the virus remaining suppressed at or below current levels.

Devolved nations approaches:

- [Scotland route map: 21/05](#)
- [Wales roadmap: 15/05](#)
- [Northern Ireland approach: 12/05](#)

[Government announces roadmap taskforces: 13/05](#)

[Culture Secretary announces Cultural Renewal Taskforce: 20/05](#)

[Museums and Galleries working group members announced: 04/06](#)

5. Business support

[Plan for jobs: 08/07](#) and [Press release](#)

The Chancellor announced a series of measures to support, protect and create jobs, including:

[Temporary VAT cut for accommodation and attractions](#)

- From 15 July to 12 January 2021 the reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of accommodation and admission to attractions across the UK, including museums.

[Job Retention Bonus: 31/07](#)

- £1,000 one-off payment to employers for every furloughed employee who remains continuously employed through to the end of January 2021. Full guidance will be published by the end of September.

Temporary VAT cut for food and non-alcoholic drinks

- The reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and similar premises from 15 July to 12 January 2021

[Eat Out to Help Out](#)

- The scheme is now closed. You must claim before 30 September.

[Business support homepage](#)

- [Financial support for businesses: updated 09/07](#)
- [Find coronavirus financial support for your business self-checker](#)
- [Business support website](#)
- [Business support helpline](#)

Support schemes for businesses

Loans

- [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £5 million
- [Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CLBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £25m.
- [Bounce Back Loans Scheme: updated 04/05](#) - loans of £2,000 to £50,000 at 2.5% interest.

Grants and business rates

- [Small business grants: and retail, hospitality and leisure grants guidance: updated 07/08](#)
- [Apply for the coronavirus Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund: updated 08/06](#)
- [Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund guidance version 3: August 2020](#)
- [Business rates: expanded retail discount: updated 02/04](#)
- [£20m to help small businesses recover: 30/07](#)

Further support and guidance

Finance and procurement

- [Filing charity annual returns during the coronavirus pandemic: 16/03](#)
- [Companies to receive 3-month extension period to file accounts during COVID-19: 25/03](#)
- [Insolvency law: help companies trading while exploring options for rescue: updated 14/05](#)
- [Companies House support for businesses hit by COVID-19: 16/04](#)
- [Tax helpline to help businesses affected by coronavirus: updated 26/03](#) - 0800 024 1222
- [Procurement policy note 02/20: Supplier relief due to Covid-19: updated 25/06](#)
- [Procurement Policy Note 04/20: Recovery and Transition from COVID-19: updated 25/06](#)
- [Government to support businesses through Trade Credit Insurance guarantee: 13/05](#)
- [Pay no Customs Duty and VAT on importing museum and gallery exhibits: 27/05](#)

Construction

- [Construction Leadership Council: site operating procedures v3: 15/04](#)
- [Procurement policy note 02/20: Guidance notes for construction contracts: 06/04](#)
- [Responsible contractual behaviour guidance: 07/05](#)
- [Construction Leadership council guidance: 07/05](#)

Staffing

- [Rules on carrying over annual leave to be relaxed: 27/03](#)
- [Holiday entitlement and pay during coronavirus: 13/05](#)
- [Claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to your employees due to coronavirus: updated 29/05](#)

Other

- [Processing ticket refunds for cancelled charity events: 16/04](#)
- [Reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission during the pandemic: 03/06](#)
- [Advice on staying secure during COVID-19: 10/06](#)
- [Code of practice for the commercial property sector: 19/06](#)
- [Apply for a moratorium under the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act: 26/06](#)

[Kickstart Scheme: 02/09](#)

[AIM and the MA working together to support the kickstart scheme: 14/09](#)

- AIM and the Museums Association are working together to support the sector in accessing the [Kickstart Scheme](#), which offers fully-funded 6-month job placements to young people.

[Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus: videos and webinars](#)

- how to make your workplace COVID-secure: [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for international trade: [register here](#) or [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax: [recorded sessions](#)

Support across the UK

- Information for individuals and businesses in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#)

National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) guidance on secure home working

- [Moving your business from the physical to the digital](#)
- [Home working guidance](#)
- [Training for staff](#)

6. Employee support

[Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)

- [Guidance for employers: updated 28/08](#)
- [Guidance for employees: updated 07/08](#)
- [Step by step guide for employers: updated 01/09](#)
- [Guidance for research organisations: 05/06](#)
- [Template: claiming for 100 or more employees Job Retention Scheme: updated 07/09](#)
- [Job Retention Bonus: 31/07](#)

Full guidance will be published by the end of September.

- **June and July**
 - Government pays 80% of wages up to £2,500, employer NI, pension contributions.
- **August**
 - Government pays 80% of wages up to £2,500, employers pay ER NICs and pension contributions. For the average claim, this represents 5% of gross costs.
- **September**
 - Government pays 70% of wages up to a cap of £2,187.50.
 - Employers pay E NICs and pension contributions and 10% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.
 - Represents 14% of the gross employment costs of the average claim.
- **October**
 - The government will pay 60% of wages up to a cap of £1,875.
 - Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 20% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.
 - Represents 23% of the gross employment costs of the average claim.

[Self-employment Income Support Scheme: updated 17/08](#)

- [Self-Employment Support Scheme extension: 29/05](#)
- [Online eligibility checker tool](#)
- Individuals can claim a second taxable grant worth 70% of average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months' worth of profits, capped at £6,570.

7. Health guidance

[Coronavirus: collected guidance: updated 13/08](#)

Latest government guidance for health professionals and other organisations.

- [Meeting with others safely \(social distancing\): updated 14/09](#)
- [Staying alert and safe: updated 14/09](#)
- [Working safely during coronavirus: updated 11/09](#)
- [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do: updated 14/09](#)
- [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection: updated 10/09](#)
- [Guidance for contacts of people with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection who do not live with the person: updated 10/09](#)
- [Review of 2m social distancing guidance and summary of review findings: updated 26/06](#)
- [North of England: local restrictions – what you can and cannot do: updated 11/09](#)

[NHS Test and Trace service: 27/05](#)

- [NHS test and trace: how it works: updated 27/08](#)
- [NHS test and trace service in the workplace: updated 22/07](#)
- [Maintaining records staff, customers & visitors to support NHS Test & Trace: updated 14/09](#)
- [Privacy notice for maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors: 03/07](#)
- [NHS Test and Trace customer logging toolkit: 21/08](#)
- Assist NHS Test and Trace by keeping a temporary record of your customers and visitors for 21 days. Further information [here](#), including FAQs and a toolkit for business.

[Scotland: Test and protect, multi-sector guidance: 14/07](#)

- Guidance to support customer and visitor data gathering for businesses and other establishments to assist contact tracing as part of NHS Scotland's Test and Protect system.

8. Sector support and information

- [Association of Independent Museums guidance](#)
- [Museums Association: collected resource page](#)

[Cultural objects licences: new temporary procedure: updated 27/05](#)

- Arts Council England's Export Licensing Unit temporary export licences procedure.

[New planning rules to protect cultural heritage: 12/07](#)

[Museums In Quarantine: 22/04](#) - [Four behind the scenes programmes](#) available on BBC iPlayer

[Culture Diary: cultural activities to watch at home](#)

[Boundless Creativity](#)

AHRC's Boundless Creativity (Boundless) programme includes:

- [Audiences of the Future](#): £33m innovation programme to fund creative R&D using augmented and virtual reality, with a focus on families and children.
- [Reimagining Wordsworth](#): Hay Festival Digital will feature a series of live broadcasts, including two events to celebrate the 250th anniversary of William Wordsworth.
- [Arts and Humanities in Quarantine \(AHRC/BBC\)](#): short animated films presenting some of the wealth of ground-breaking arts and humanities research currently funded by AHRC.
- [Towards a National Collection](#): explores the nexus between collections, digital, research and public access. #collectionsunited will bring together objects from across UK collections.

Museums of Boundless Creativity

- The AHRC digital Museum of Boundless Creativity will open this September.

9. Key information sources

Check regularly for updates

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#)
[Sign up for email alerts](#)
- [Public Health England](#) twitter [Public Health England](#)
- [NHS guidance](#) twitter [NHS England](#)
- [Department of Health](#)
- [UK Prime Minister](#)
- [FCO Travel advice](#)