# DCMS Museums and Galleries Sector

**Coronavirus bulletin**

4 May 2021

Museums & Cultural Property COVID-19 Response Mailbox  
covid19-mcp@dcms.gov.uk

## 1. Key updates

**NEW Covid-status certification review: Written Ministerial Statement: 29/04**
- Written Ministerial Statement from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove, on the Government's plans for covid certification.
- COVID-status certification will not be required at step 2 and 3 of the roadmap. The Government has committed to setting out the conclusions of the review ahead of step 4.

## 2. Current rules

**Further easing of Covid restrictions: 05/04**  
**Reopening businesses and venues in England: updated 12/04**  
**Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do: updated 26/04**  
**COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021: 22/02**  
**The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021**  
**Step 2 COVID-19 restrictions posters: 12/04**  
**Reopening outdoor hospitality safely: 16/04**

### Step 2
- Outdoor attractions can open at museums and galleries in England.
- Indoor attractions at museums and galleries in England must stay closed.
- Permitted businesses operating in otherwise closed attractions (such as a gift shop or a takeaway kiosk at a museum) may only open where they are a self-contained unit and can be accessed without entering the museum.
- Cafes can provide takeaways, or service on the premises, as long as they only provide seating outdoors, and customers must remain seated outdoors while consuming food and drink. If they serve alcohol, they must additionally provide table service outdoors.

### Step 3
- Museums will be allowed to reopen in Step 3, which will be no earlier than 17 May.

### Step 4
- By Step 4, which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.

**Global Travel Taskforce sets out approach to safely restarting international travel**

**Global Travel Taskforce: safe return of international travel: 09/04**
- Recommendations include the launch of a new traffic light system and ‘green watchlist’, and the introduction of travel certification.
Spring 2021 Reviews Terms of Reference: updated 05/04

- Terms of reference for reviews committed to in the 'COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021'.
  - Covid-status Certification Review
  - Events Research Programme
  - Information about the Events Research Programme
  - Global Travel Taskforce
  - Social Distancing Review

COVID-19 critical worker status: 07/01
- Clarification on when a security operative is considered to be a "critical worker".

Twice weekly testing available to everyone in England: 05/04

Regular rapid coronavirus tests if you do not have symptoms
Covid testing guidance for employers: updated 26/02
Coronavirus (COVID-19): employer testing duty: 28/03
- Everyone in England, including those without symptoms, will be able to take a free rapid coronavirus test twice a week from 9 April.
- It is recommended that private-sector employers offer their workforce (who are on-site) access to a minimum of 2 lateral flow tests every week. This will help identify staff who are carrying the virus without displaying symptoms, reducing the risk of transmission.

Measures and enforcement rules for quarantined passengers: updated 16/02
Coronavirus (COVID-19): travel corridors: updated 11/02
Coronavirus (COVID-19): red list travel ban countries: updated 23/04
- All arrivals at English ports required to undertake 2 mandatory COVID-19 tests - on day 2 and day 8 of their 10-day quarantine.
- Anyone arriving from a country on the travel ban list must purchase a quarantine package.
- All travel corridors for people arriving in England are suspended.

In Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland different rules apply.
- Northern Ireland: outdoor areas can reopen, indoor parts closed until at least 24 May.
- Wales: Museums likely to reopen from 17 May (incoming Welsh govt to review on 13 May)
- Scotland: Museums, galleries, and libraries can reopen from 26 April.

3. Guidance

Good practice guidance for reopening museums: updated 23/04

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: updated 23/04

Sector resources:
- AIM and Museum Development reopening checklist: updated 07/04
- Association of Independent Museum coronavirus resources
- EMBED Reopening Recommendations Guidance

Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus: updated 23/04
- The GIS team recognise the Guidance from the Health and Safety Executive titled Ventilation and air conditioning during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers: Emerging from Lockdown guidance
GIS advice: ventilation is just one of a range of measures used to control the spread of viruses, and its use should be balanced against other negative impacts such as increased pollution, energy, noise, security, health, well-being and environmental conditions.

**Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own: updated 22/04**

**Face coverings regulations**
- Face coverings must be worn by visitors in museums and galleries in England.
- Customers in hospitality venues must wear face coverings, except when eating or drinking.
- Face coverings must be worn by retail, leisure and hospitality staff working in areas that are open to the public where they’re likely to come into contact with a member of the public.
- Where there is a physical barrier between staff and members of the public then staff behind the barrier will not be required to wear a face covering.
- Museums legally required to remind customers of the need to wear face coverings unless exempt, e.g. through prominent display of signs, and/or verbal reminders to customers.

**Face coverings exemptions and Exemption cards or badges**
- Exemptions for people unable to wear face coverings, and badges and cards for those who wish to wear them to show they are exempt.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): Organised events guidance for local authorities: updated 23/04**
- Advice for local authorities in England around organised events during coronavirus.

**Staying COVID-secure notice: updated 19/04**
- Notice to show you’ve made your workplace COVID-secure, revised to include ventilation.

**VisitBritain “We’re good to go” industry standard: 25/06**
- Industry standard shows your business follows Government and public health guidance.

**Cultural objects licences: new temporary procedure: updated 23/12**
- Arts Council England’s Export Licensing Unit temporary export licences procedure.

**Government Indemnity Scheme: temporary courier arrangements: updated 11/03**
- Details of temporary courier arrangements in place due to pandemic.

**Art UK brings the nation’s art to schools through a new digital learning offer: 28/01**
- Bringing the nation’s art together on one platform providing learning resources.

**Further information and guidance**
- **Guidance for DCMS sectors**
  - Heritage locations guidance: updated 04/05
  - The visitor economy guidance: updated 04/05
  - Guidance on searching for archaeological finds in England: updated 12/04
  - Guidance for shops and branches on reopening: updated 04/05
  - Performing Arts guidance: updated 04/05
  - Volunteering guidance: updated 29/03
  - Offices and contact centres: updated 04/05

**4. Test and Trace**

**NHS Test and Trace: requirement to maintain records: updated 12/04**
- NHS test and trace: how it works: updated 27/04
- NHS test and trace service in the workplace: updated 30/04
- NHS Test and Trace customer logging toolkit: updated 25/09
- ICO guidance: 18/09 and Q&A for small businesses and organisations
- Updated to reflect the change in rules for when a group enters a venue. From 29 March 2021, every customer or visitor should be asked to scan the NHS QR code or provide their name and contact details, not just a lead member.
- Mandatory for museums and galleries to have a system to collect Test and Trace data, and to ask customers to provide these details. Businesses required to retain details for 21 days.
- Museums must display an official NHS QR code poster so visitors can scan the QR code using their NHS COVID-19 App, as an alternative to visitors providing contact details.
- The regulations are [here](#), and further information [here](#), with FAQs and a business toolkit.

### NHS COVID-19 app launches across England and Wales: 24/09
- [Information and resources for app](#)
- [NHS QR code venue posters: privacy notice: 06/04](#)
  - The QR codes can be [downloaded via a website to display as posters in premises](#).

### Scotland: Test and protect, multi-sector guidance: 14/07
- [Protect Scotland: 10/09](#)
  - Confidential contact tracing app. Scotland only.

## 5. Job Support

### Changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme from July 2021: updated 03/03
- [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)
- [Claim for employees’ wages: updated 01/04](#)
- [Check which employees you can put on furlough: updated 22/04](#)

- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until 30 September and the level of grant available to employers under the scheme will stay the same until 30 June.
- From 1 July, the level of grant will be reduced and you will be asked to contribute towards the cost of your furloughed employees’ wages. To be eligible for the grant you must pay your furloughed employees 80% of their wages, up to a cap of £2,500 per month.
- You can continue to choose to top up your employees’ wages above the 80% total and £2,500 cap for the hours not worked at your own expense.
- Wage caps are proportional to the hours not worked.

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<th>Government contribution: wages for hours not worked</th>
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<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80% up to £2,500 per month</td>
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<td>80% up to £2,500</td>
<td>70% up to £2,187.50</td>
<td>60% up to £1,875</td>
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<tr>
<th>Employer contribution: wages for hours not worked</th>
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<th>No</th>
<th>10% up to £312.50</th>
<th>20% up to £625</th>
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<th>For hours not worked employee receives</th>
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### Claim a grant through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme: updated 21/04
- [Online eligibility checker tool](#)
- **Fourth grant**
  - The fourth SEISS grant will be set at 80% of 3 months’ average trading profits, paid out in a single instalment, capped at £7,500.
It will take into account 2019 to 2020 tax returns and will be open to those who became self-employed in tax year 2019 to 2020. The rest of the eligibility criteria remain unchanged.

Fifth grant

- There will be a fifth and final grant covering May to September. You will be able to claim from late July if you are eligible for the fifth grant.
- The amount of the fifth grant will be determined by how much your turnover has been reduced in the year April 2020 to April 2021.
- Further details will be provided on the fifth grant in due course. It will be worth:
  - 80% of 3 months’ average trading profits, capped at £7,500, for those with a turnover reduction of 30% or more
  - 30% of 3 months’ average trading profits, capped at £2,850, for those with a turnover reduction of less than 30%.

Kickstart Scheme: AIM and the MA working together to support the kickstart scheme: 14/09

- The Kickstart Scheme offers fully-funded 6-month job placements to young people.

6. Funding

**Culture Recovery Fund: £1.57bn to protect cultural, arts and heritage institutions: 05/07**

Culture Recovery Fund: Lifeline for culture organisations across the country: 07/11

Culture Recovery Fund: Grants Second Round: 18/12

Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Second Round: updated 26/01

- The Chancellor announced in the Budget a further £300m for the Culture Recovery Fund.
- Over £1bn has already been allocated:
  - £500m grants 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
  - £165m in repayable finance to support major arts and heritage institutions: 11/12
  - Capital Kickstart Fund: 11/12
  - Culture Recovery Fund: Repayable Finance Round Two: 14/12
  - Historic England: Lifeline Grants for Culture: 07/11
  - Architectural Heritage Fund grant awards: 18/02

**England**

National Lottery Heritage Fund support: updated 01/03

Arts Council England Covid-19 support: updated 02/04

ACE National Lottery Project Grants open for applications

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

Funding for councils to address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income: 02/07

Local government income compensation scheme guidance

- 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 16/04

£2m Community Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund

- Will prioritise projects which support people with disabilities and those who are vulnerable.

£7.75m programme to support arts and cultural organisations: 28/10

- Aimed at helping the arts and cultural sector recover from the effects of the pandemic.
£4 million lifeline for the arts in Northern Ireland: 01/07
- £4m fund for arts organisations, freelance artists, creative practitioners and performers.

Scotland

Museums Galleries Scotland announces Covid support grants: 22/03
- Museums Galleries Scotland has confirmed funding awards worth £800,000 in the latest COVID-19 support for museums and galleries in Scotland.

Scottish government: supporting culture throughout the pandemic: 20/12

Museums Galleries Scotland Coronavirus Guidance for Museums

Museums Galleries Scotland funding overview: 06/04
- Museum Development Fund: support for civic and university museums: 08/10
  Open to organisations that manage Accredited museums not eligible for the Recovery and Resilience Fund – civic (local authority and ALEO run museums) and university museums.
- COVID-19 Adaptation Fund - up to £7,500 (£10,000 for partnerships) for reopening safely

Creative Scotland support:
- £7.5m Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development: to support creative practitioners
- £10m lifeline support for Performing Arts Venues in Scotland: 03/07

Wales

Welsh government’s £53m Cultural Recovery Fund: updated 23/10
- £18.5m for accredited museums, archive services, and others.
- £7 million fund for freelancers to support individuals in the sector
- £27.5m fund administered by the Arts Council of Wales for galleries and arts centres.

Museums Association covid support scheme
- Grants of £500 to individual MA members whose finances have been affected by covid.
- Open to individual members who have held membership for two or more years and can demonstrate a genuine and measurable need.

Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund
- Two funding streams for collections engagement: grants up to £90,000 over around 2 years
- Expressions of interest deadlines are 26 April for grant awards in July and 13 September for awards in December, following a two-stage process.
- In total £1.3m will be awarded, anticipated to be 7-10 projects in each funding round

7. Business support

Budget 2021

Budget 2021: What you need to know
- Furlough scheme extended until 30 Sept, with employer contributions to wages from 1 July
- Self-Employment Income Support Scheme extended until 30 September, 2 further rounds
- £300m to the Cultural Recovery Fund
- £90m to government-sponsored National Museums and cultural bodies in England.
- £18.8m for local cultural infrastructure
- VAT reduction to 5% for hospitality and attractions, including museums, and for food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, cafés, extended to 30 September
- Restart Grants announced
- Recovery Loan Scheme launched 6 April

Business support homepage

Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for the charity sector
VAT reduced rate for hospitality, holiday accommodation and attractions updated 03/03
- VAT reduction from 20% to 5% for hospitality and attractions, including museums, and for food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, cafés, extended to 30 September.
- New VAT rate of 12.5% from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022

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: watch recorded sessions
- for small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax: recorded sessions

Loans and grants for businesses
Recovery Loan Scheme: 03/03
- Loans and other finance up to £10m per business, available through accredited lenders.
- The government guarantees 80% of the finance to the lender.
- Open until 31 December, subject to review.
Grants and business rates
- Check if you're eligible for a coronavirus Restart Grant: 19/03
- Restart Grant: guidance for local authorities: updated 04/05
  - One-off grants of up to £18,000 in FY 2021-22 to support leisure businesses, including museums and art galleries. Grants available from 1 April 2021.
  - The following thresholds apply for these businesses:
    - a. Rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on 1 April 2021 - £8,000.
    - b. Rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 1 April 2021 - £12,000.
    - c. Rateable value of exactly £51,000 or over on 1 April 2021 - £18,000.
- Local Restrictions Support Grants and Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 04/05
- Check if eligible for grant due to national restrictions (closed businesses): updated 08/03
- Check if you're eligible for the coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 08/03
- Small business grants; and retail, hospitality and leisure grants guidance: updated 07/08

Support across the UK
- Information for individuals and businesses in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Government welcomes European Commission’s draft data adequacy decisions: 19/02
- Government welcomes the EC’s draft data adequacy decisions, which recognise the UK’s high data protection standards and state the UK should be found ‘adequate’.

8. Health guidance

Coronavirus: collected guidance
- How to stop the spread of coronavirus: updated 23/04
- Making a support bubble with another household: updated 29/03
- Working safely during coronavirus: updated 15/04
- Public Health England Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource Centre

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