1. Key updates

**NEW Cultural Investment Fund launched: 24/05**

Three funds to improve existing or deliver new cultural infrastructure across England:

- **Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND): 24/05**
  Grants between £50k and £5m to help non-national accredited museums across England complete urgent maintenance and improve their core infrastructure.

- **Libraries Improvement Fund: 24/05**
  Grants between £50k and £499,999 to help library services across England upgrade their buildings and technology to respond to the changing ways people are using them.

- **Cultural Development Fund: Round 2: 24/05**
  Grants between £2m and £5m to unlock local growth and productivity, promote economic and social recovery from Covid, and regenerate communities through capital investment.

**NEW Northern Ireland: Executive confirms relaxation to restrictions: 20/05**

- Museums able to reopen from 24 May.

**NEW Wales: Cultural Recovery Fund Phase 2 grant - Freelancer Fund Open: 19/05**

- Round 2 of the Freelancer Fund is now open (delivered by the local authorities in Wales).
- Round 2 will close at 17.00 on Tuesday 1 June 2021 with no exceptions.

2. Current rules

**PM statement at coronavirus press conference: 10/05**

*Further easing of COVID restrictions confirmed for 17 May: 10/05*

*Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do: updated 21/05*

*Reopening businesses and venues in England: updated 17/05*

*Step 3 COVID-19 restrictions posters: 17/05*

*COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021: 22/02*

*The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021*

**Step 3**

- Indoor museums and galleries in England permitted to open with COVID-secure measures.
- Indoor hospitality venues such as restaurants, pubs, bars and cafes can reopen.
- Indoor gatherings limited to 6 people or 2 households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible).
- Outdoor gatherings limited to 30 people.
- People will be able to attend indoor and outdoor events, including business events.
● Guidance on meeting family and friends will be updated. The public can make informed, personal decisions on close contact, such as hugging, with their friends and family. Close contact continues to carry a risk of catching or spreading COVID-19, and people must consider the risk to themselves and to others.
● Social distancing is still very important. You should stay 2 metres apart from anyone who is not in your household or support bubble where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings) if you cannot stay 2 metres apart.
● COVID-safe rules remain for the workplace and businesses, such as shops and hospitality.

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.

The visitor economy: Business events: updated 18/05
● Attendance at business events will be capped according to venue type, and attendees should follow the COVID-secure measures set out by those venues.
● Permitted venues (including conference centres and exhibition halls) may host business events such as conferences, trade shows, exhibitions, charity auctions, private dining events such as charity or gala dinners and awards ceremonies, and corporate hospitality.
● Events permitted from Step 3 should follow all COVID-secure guidance, adhere to all legal requirements, and take all reasonable action to mitigate risk to public health.

Wedding and civil partnership ceremonies, receptions and celebrations: 13/05
● Guidance for couples planning to get married or form a civil partnership in England, as well as managers of venues that host ceremonies and receptions.

Step 3 - from 17 May
● Museums and galleries can host events and allow viewings with COVID-19 safe measures.

Step 4 - no earlier than 21 June
● At Step 4 the government aims to remove all limits on weddings, civil partnership ceremonies and receptions.

Spring 2021 Reviews Terms of Reference: updated 05/04
● Covid-status certification: Written Ministerial Statement: 29/04
● Events Research Programme
● Global Travel Taskforce sets out approach to safely restarting international travel
● Launch of traffic light system and ‘green watchlist’, and introduction of travel certification.
● Social Distancing Review

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

New ‘We Offer Testing to our Staff’ scheme launched: 11/05
We Offer Testing to our Staff (WOTTOS): endorsement scheme: updated 17/05
● A new sticker scheme will allow businesses to show they are testing their staff regularly.
● Guidance about the ‘We Offer Testing to our Staff’ (WOTTOS) endorsement scheme, which showcases organisations that offer regular testing for their employees through displaying an easily recognisable and NHS Test and Trace branded physical and/or virtual sticker.

Covid testing guidance for employers: updated 26/02
Coronavirus (COVID-19): employer testing duty: 28/03
● 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
Govt confirms traffic light list ahead of cautious return to international travel: 07/05
Red, amber and green list rules for entering England: updated 17/05
Travel abroad and coronavirus (COVID-19): updated 20/05
Demonstrating your COVID-19 vaccination status when travelling abroad: updated 21/05
- Countries rated as red, amber or green and the rules you must follow to enter England.

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 reopen from 17 May
- Scotland: Museums, galleries, and libraries reopened from 26 April.

3. Guidance

Good practice guidance for reopening museums: updated 18/05

Devolved nations guidance:
- Northern Ireland: Culture and Heritage destinations venues: Guidance for a phased return
- Wales: Culture & heritage destinations/venues: guidance for phased return: updated 27/04
- Scotland: guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions: updated 23/04

Sector resources:
- AIM and Museum Development reopening checklist: updated 10/05
- Association of Independent Museum coronavirus resources
- EMBED Reopening Recommendations Guidance

Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus: updated 19/05
- 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 exemptions
Exemption cards or badges
- Face coverings must be worn by visitors in museums in England, except for those exempt.
- 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.

- 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 18/05
- The visitor economy guidance: updated 18/05
- Guidance on searching for archaeological finds in England: updated 18/05
- Guidance for shops and branches on reopening: updated 18/05
- Performing Arts guidance: updated 18/05
- Volunteering guidance: updated 17/05
- Offices and contact centres: updated 18/05

4. Test and Trace

NHS Test and Trace: requirement to maintain records: updated 17/05
- NHS test and trace: how it works: updated 20/05
- NHS test and trace service in the workplace: updated 17/05
- NHS Test and Trace customer logging toolkit: updated 25/09
- ICO guidance: 18/09 and Q&A for small businesses and organisations

Museums and galleries (with the exception of hospitality spaces) should not refuse entry to those that do not wish to participate, but it is the duty of museums and galleries to ask all customers and visitors to take part. Failure to adhere to any of these requirements could result in fixed penalty fines starting at £1,000.
- You must both display an official NHS QR code poster and have a system in place to request and record contact details of customers, visitors and staff and do the following: ask every customer or visitor aged 16 and over to scan the official NHS QR code, or provide their name and contact details;
- keep a record of all staff working on your premises, their shift times, and contact details;
- offer a method for individuals to check in which does not require that person to own a smartphone or another form of technology;
- keep these records of customers, visitors and staff for 21 days and provide data to NHS Test and Trace if requested, and securely destroy them after 21 days in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR);
- If all visitors supply contact details in advance (e.g. online booking) they don’t need to sign in again at the venue, but can still scan the official QR code poster if they want to;
- Only hospitality spaces (for example, a café with seating on site) should take reasonable steps to refuse entry to people who refuse to provide their details or scan the official hospitality NHS QR code poster using the NHS COVID-19 app (except where exemptions apply). This does not apply to takeaway service.
- The regulations are here, and further information here, with FAQs and a business toolkit.
- The requirements above are specific to England. Guidance differs for venues in Wales.

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**Cafes and other hospitality venues**
- The updated official NHS QR code posters for the hospitality sector were sent to venues on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 March. Please replace your existing official NHS QR code posters with the new hospitality specific posters.
- If you did not receive your new official hospitality QR code poster, or you need to download another poster for any reason, you can generate a new one [here](#).

**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 20/05*
*Check which employees you can put on furlough: updated 20/05*
- 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>May</th>
<th>June</th>
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<tr>
<td>Government contribution: wages for hours not worked</td>
<td>80% up to £2,500</td>
<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>
<td>Employer contribution: wages for hours not worked</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>10% up to £312.50</td>
<td>20% up to £625</td>
<td>20% up to £625</td>
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<tr>
<td>For hours not worked employee receives</td>
<td>80% up to £2,500 per month</td>
<td>80% up to £2,500 per month</td>
<td>80% up to £2,500 per month</td>
<td>80% up to £2,500 per month</td>
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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 Rund: 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

**Wales: Cultural Recovery Fund Phase 2 grant - Freelancer Fund Open: 19/05**

- Round 2 of the Freelancer Fund is now open (delivered by the local authorities in Wales).
- Round 2 will close at 17.00 on Tuesday 1 June 2021 with no exceptions.

**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

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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.
    - 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
- EC’s draft data adequacy decisions states that the UK should be found ‘adequate’.

### 8. Health guidance

#### Coronavirus: collected guidance
- **How to stop the spread of coronavirus: updated 24/05**
- **Making a support bubble with another household: updated 17/05**
- **Working safely during coronavirus: updated 18/05**
- **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