



COVID-19

events guidance

**March 2021 position statement
on the Government roadmap
for easing out of lockdown**

Introduction

The Government has now published its **COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021 plan** which outlines their four-step roadmap process for easing COVID-19 restrictions. The plan sets out how the Government and industry representatives will explore events with larger crowd sizes and less social distancing to ensure they can run safely.

Starting in April, the Government will carry out research which will include a series of pilots using enhanced testing approaches and other measures. The aim of the research is for there to be a consistent approach to lifting restrictions on events: depending on the outcome, the Government has stated that it hopes to be able to lift restrictions on events **no earlier than 21 June 2021**.

Outlined in this document are the main points from the four-step plan in relation to events.

Please note that these dates are subject to change and will depend on the data relating to:

1. The continued success of the vaccine deployment programme.
2. Evidence showing vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
3. Infection rates that do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
4. The Government's assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new variants of concern.

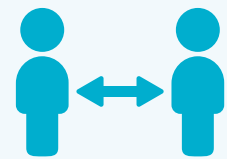
Step one: From 29 March



People will be able to meet outside in groups up to a maximum of six people (the 'Rule of six') or with one other household, though people from different households will still need to socially distance from each other.

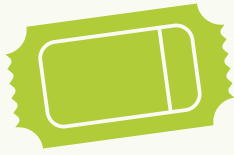


Organised outdoor sport allowed (children and adults).



The rules on social contact outdoors will apply in these settings.

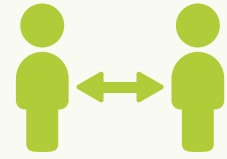
Step two: No earlier than 12 April



The majority of outdoor settings and attractions can reopen, including outdoor hospitality, zoos, theme parks, drive-in cinemas and drive-in performance events.

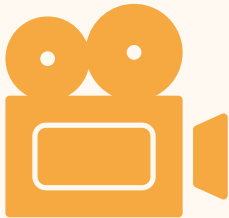


Outdoor gatherings must still be limited to six people or two households as in step one.



The rules on social contact outdoors will apply in these settings.

Step three: No earlier than 17 May



Remaining outdoor entertainment such as outdoor theatres and cinemas will be permitted to open.



Controlled indoor events of up to 1,000 people or 50% of a venue's capacity, whichever is lower, will be permitted, as will outdoor events with a capacity of either 50% or 4,000 people, whichever is lower.



Large, outdoor, seated venues where crowds can be safely distributed, allowing up to 10,000 people or 25% of total seated capacity, whichever is lower, will be permitted. For example, a football stadium.

At this stage, the Government aims to ease limits on social contact and it will be up to each individual to make informed personal decisions, although gatherings of more than 30 people outdoors will remain illegal. COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and premises must not cater for groups larger than the legal limits.

Step four: No earlier than 21 June



Large events to be permitted with higher than the previously set capacities **subject to the outcome of the Scientific Events Research Programme** and potentially using testing to reduce the risk of infection. This is subject to further evaluation.

Further guidance

There are other important dates which will impact upon events this year and full details of the Government's roadmap are contained in the [COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021 plan](#).

It is anticipated that the [Visitor Economy](#) and other guidance will be updated in due course which should help to provide more details and clarity, but for the moment events will need to demonstrate they can be COVID-secure and the event application process which was detailed previously remains in place. The events checklist can be accessed [on the County Council's website](#).

Whilst this roadmap is broadly positive and provides a useful indication of the direction of travel, the dates in the four-step process are not definitive and could change so it should be remembered that **any planned events are subject to postponement / cancellation if it is necessary to help prevent the spread of infection**.

Get in touch

If you have any questions, you can email covid.enquiries@hants.gov.uk but please note that advice can only be provided in line with published guidance at the time.