

Annex A: National policy developments timeline

The government has taken a significant number of further measures which have eased the lockdown restrictions. This timeline does not detail every national development, but covers some of the most significant. Full details of guidance and communications issued by the government can be found on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

Date	Policy announcement
22 June	On 22 June, the government announced plans to ease guidance for the over 2 million people shielding. From 6 July, those shielding from coronavirus can gather in groups of up to 6 people outdoors and form a 'support bubble' with another household. Government shielding support package will remain in place until the end of July when people will no longer be advised to shield.
23 June	On 23 June the Prime Minister set out further changes to lockdown measures in England: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From 4 July, pubs, restaurants and hairdressers will be able to reopen, providing they adhere to COVID secure guidelines.• Two households will be also able to meet up in any setting with social distancing measures, and that staycations in England would be permitted with the reopening of accommodation sites.• Some leisure facilities and tourist attractions may also reopen, if they can do so safely – this includes outdoor gyms and playgrounds, cinemas, museums, galleries, theme parks and arcades, as well as libraries, social clubs, places of worship and community centres.• The Prime Minister also announced that where it is not possible to stay two metres apart, guidance will allow individuals to keep a social distance of 'one metre plus'. (i.e. staying one metre apart, plus mitigations which reduce the risk of transmission).
24 June	£105 million to keep rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness safe and off the streets during coronavirus pandemic. The funding will be used to support people into tenancies of their own including through help with deposits for accommodation, and securing thousands of alternative rooms already available and ready for use, such as student accommodation.
25 June	The Office for Veterans' Affairs (OVA) and the MOD announced that 100 Armed Forces charities will benefit from nearly £6million of extra funding to support serving personnel, veterans and their families during the coronavirus pandemic.
26 June	The government announced that £22 million of emergency coronavirus funding was being made available for more than 540 sexual violence and domestic abuse charities.
27 June	The government unveiled a £200 million fund Sustainable Innovation Fund open to companies across all parts of the UK who need urgent financial support to keep their cutting-edge projects and ideas alive. The support could go towards developing new technologies focused on making homes and offices more energy efficient to cut bills, creating ground-breaking medical technologies to treat infections and diseases, or reducing the carbon footprint of public transport in our towns and cities.

1 July	The government announced employers will have the flexibility to bring furloughed employees back to work on a part time basis.
2 July	<p>The government announced plans for schools and colleges to reopen in full in September. Current restrictions on group sizes will be lifted to allow schools, colleges and nurseries to fully reopen to all children and young people, as COVID-19 infection rates continue to fall. COVID-19 secure measures will remain in place to reduce the risk of transmission, with schools being asked to keep children in class or year group sized 'bubbles'.</p> <p>The government also announced a new £500m funding package (unringfenced) for councils to help address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income during the pandemic. Where losses are more than 5% of a council's planned income from sales, fees and charges, the government will cover them for 75p in every pound lost. Local authorities will also be able to spread their tax deficits over 3 years rather than the usual one year.</p>
3 July	Temporary scrapping of VAT on personal protective equipment (PPE) for infection extended until the end of October. This comes after VAT on PPE was temporarily zero-rated at the beginning of May and import duty on PPE was removed.
5 July	The government announced a £1.57bn package of support including emergency grants and loans, to help protect the future of the UK's world-renowned galleries, museums, heritage sites, music venues, independent cinemas and other cultural venues as well as local venues.
6 July	The government announced the majority of children currently considered extremely clinical vulnerable to COVID-19 will be able to be removed from the shielded patient list. Only a small group of children with certain medical conditions are likely to be advised to shield if shielding needs to be reintroduced in the future.
8 July	<p>The Chancellor delivered his Summer Economic Update announcing a package of measures to support the economy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Job Retention Bonus will be introduced to help firms keep furloughed workers. UK Employers will receive a one-off bonus of £1,000 for each furloughed employee who is still employed as of 31 January 2021. • A new £2 billion Kickstart Scheme will also be launched to create new, fully subsidised jobs for young people across the country. Those aged 16-24, claiming Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment, will be eligible. Funding available for each six-month job placement will cover 100% of the National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week – and employers will be able to top this wage up. • A total of £1.6 billion will be invested in scaling up employment support schemes, training and apprenticeships to help people looking for a job • Bringing forward work on £8.8 billion of new infrastructure, decarbonisation and maintenance projects. This includes a £3 billion green investment package that could help support around 140,000 green jobs and upgrade buildings and reduce emissions; a £2 billion Green Homes Grant scheme which will be available to homeowners and landlords in England to apply

	<p>for vouchers to pay for green improvements; a £1 billion programme will make public buildings, including schools and hospitals, greener.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, £5.8 billion will be spent on shovel-ready construction projects to get Britain building. • To encourage people to safely return to eating out at restaurants the Government's new Eat Out to Help Out discount scheme will be launched to provide a 50% reduction for sit-down meals in cafes, restaurants and pubs across the UK from Monday to Wednesday every week throughout August 2020. • Introduction of a temporary increase to the Nil Rate Band of Stamp Duty from £125,000 to £500,000 until 31 March 2021.
9 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government announced The Recovery Advice for Business scheme, which will give small firms access to free, one-to-one advice with an expert adviser to help them through the coronavirus pandemic and to prepare for long-term recovery. The platform is now live. • Government outlines the measures that will allow outdoor pools to reopen from 11 July and indoor gyms, swimming pools and sports facilities to reopen from 25 July. • Government announces that performing arts can now take place outdoors from 11 July with a socially distanced audience present. • Under new government plans announced, beauty salons, nail bars, tattoo and massage studios, physical therapy businesses and spas across England will be able to reopen safely from Monday 13 July. Businesses must be able to meet the COVID-19 secure guidelines developed in consultation with the beauty industry to reopen.
14 July	<p>The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care confirmed that face coverings would be made mandatory in shops and supermarkets. Children under 11 and those with certain disabilities will be exempt.</p> <p>A fine up to £100 would be implemented for those who do not comply.</p> <p>Face coverings will become mandatory in these setting from 24 July 2020.</p>