

DCMS Museums and Galleries Sector Coronavirus bulletin

8 November 2021

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

NEW [Government ventilation advice campaign: 05/11](#)

- Clear advice to open windows for 10 minutes each hour when socialising indoors.

NEW [Travel to England from another country during coronavirus: updated 08/11](#)

- From 22 November, children 17 and under will not have to quarantine on arrival in England.

2. Current situation

[COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021: 14/09](#)

[Prime Minister sets out autumn and winter Covid plan: 14/09](#)

- The government published the 'COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan' for England: Plan A details the preferred approach, and Plan B the contingency measures.

Plan A – a comprehensive approach designed to steer the country through autumn and winter

- The Government will aim to sustain the progress made and prepare the country for future challenges, while ensuring the NHS does not come under unsustainable pressure.

Plan B - contingency measures

- If the data suggests the NHS is likely to come under unsustainable pressure, the Government's Plan B prioritises measures which can help control transmission of the virus while seeking to minimise economic and social impacts. This includes:
 - Communicating the increased risk level, and the need to behave more cautiously.
 - Introducing mandatory vaccine-only covid-status certification in certain settings.
 - Legally mandating face coverings in certain settings.
- They would also consider asking people to work from home if they can, for a limited period.

[Proposal for mandatory COVID certification in a Plan B scenario: 27/09](#)

- Vaccine certification could form part of a Plan B, however, final decisions on the policy have not been made. This provides more detail about the proposed certification regime.
- Mandatory vaccine-only certification would be introduced for visitors to these venues:
 - All nightclubs;
 - Indoor, crowded settings with 500 or more attendees where they're in close proximity to people from other households, e.g. music venues, large receptions;
 - Outdoor, crowded settings with 4,000 or more attendees where they are likely to be in close proximity to people from other households, such as outdoor festivals; and
 - Any settings with 10,000 or more attendees, such as large sports and music stadia.
- Day-to-day activities in certain venues would not be captured: certification requirements would only apply if hosting events exhibiting the criteria that require certification. For example, a museum would not be in scope unless hosting an event such as a reception, ball or performance in which 500 or more attendees were standing or moving around.

[Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread: updated 05/11](#)

[Face coverings: updated 28/10](#)

- The legal requirement to wear a face covering has been lifted in all settings in England.
- Face coverings are still required in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed spaces where they come into contact with people they don't normally meet.
- Businesses can ask their employees and visitors to wear face coverings.

[Test and Trace no longer a legal requirement](#)

- Although no longer a legal requirement in England, businesses are encouraged to display QR codes for visitors to check in using the NHS COVID app, to support Test and Trace.

[Certification](#)

- The [NHS COVID Pass](#) on the NHS app demonstrates a person's covid-status.

[Self-isolation removed from double-jabbed close contacts: 11/08](#)

- Double jabbed individuals and under 18s no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone with covid-19.

[International travel update: 29/10](#)

[Travel update: all countries removed from the UK's red list: 28/10](#)

[Red list of countries and territories: updated 01/11](#)

[Travel abroad from England during coronavirus: updated 04/10](#)

[Travel to England from another country during coronavirus: updated 08/11](#)

[Coronavirus testing before you travel to England: updated 05/11](#)

[Testing for staff after international travel: updated 25/08](#)

[Approved vaccines and countries with approved proof of vaccination: updated 08/11](#)

In [Wales](#), [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) different rules apply.

- [Northern Ireland Arts Council information](#)
- [Wales](#): You must use the [NHS COVID Pass](#) to show that you are fully vaccinated or have tested negative to attend large events, nightclubs and similar venues.
- [Scotland](#): Face coverings remain mandatory. [Vaccine certification information for businesses & event organisers](#)

3. Guidance

[Good practice guidelines for reopening museums: updated 30/09](#)

- Guidance for the museums sector in England.

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 04/11](#)
- [Scotland: guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions: updated 19/07](#)
- [Museums Galleries Scotland Coronavirus Guidance for Museums](#)

Sector resources:

- [AIM and Museum Development reopening checklist: updated 19/08](#)
- [Association of Independent Museum coronavirus resources](#)
- [EMBED Reopening Recommendations Guidance](#)

[Covid testing guidance for employers: updated 26/02](#)

[We Offer Testing to our Staff \(WOTTOS\): endorsement scheme: updated 17/05](#)

- 'We Offer Testing to our Staff': shows organisations that offer regular testing for employees.

[Posters for businesses to display to remind people of continuing covid actions](#)

- Posters to remind museums, galleries and their visitors about the new workplace guidance and the behaviours that people should still adopt. Posters include: checking in at cafes and venues; on face coverings; and on testing.
- You can continue to display QR posters so that visitors can check-in using the NHS app.

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

- Industry standard shows your business follows Government and public health guidance.

Arts Council guidance

[Cultural objects licences: temporary export licences procedure: updated 23/12](#)

[Government Indemnity Scheme: temporary courier arrangements/ventilation: updated 11/03](#)

[Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus: updated 15/09](#)

[EU guidelines on safe resumption of activities in cultural and creative sectors: 29/06](#)

- The [Creatives Unite](#) website provides resources for artists and creatives.

Further information and guidance

- [Working safely during coronavirus: updated 04/10](#)
- [Events and attractions: updated 04/10](#)
- [Shops, branches and close contact services: updated 04/10](#)
- [Volunteering guidance: updated 01/10](#)
- [Offices, factories and labs: updated 04/10](#)
- [ALVA draft voluntary guidance: maintaining social distancing & other measures: 05/07](#)

4. Test and Trace

[NHS Test and Trace: maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors: updated 20/07](#)

[NHS test and trace: how it works: updated 17/08](#)

[NHS test and trace in the workplace: updated 13/08](#)

[ICO: Maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors for contact tracing purposes](#)

[NHS COVID-19 app updated to notify fewer contacts to isolate](#)

- Although no longer a legal requirement in England, businesses are encouraged to display QR codes for visitors to check in using the NHS COVID app, to support Test and Trace.
- People can check in by scanning the QR code via their NHS COVID-19 app or by providing contact details. This will support Test & Trace to contact people exposed to Covid.

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

[Protect Scotland Test and Protect App: 10/09](#)

5. Job Support

[Check a previous Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme claim: 29/10](#)

- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ended on 30 September 2021.
- Use the service to view or delete previous furlough claims.

[Make a late Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme claim: 29/10](#)

- Find out if you can make a late claim if you’ve missed the deadline and how to do this.

[Covid-19: what to do if you’re employed and cannot work: updated 01/10](#)

- Guidance for people who are employed and cannot work due to coronavirus.

[Covid-19: what to do if self-employed and getting less work or no work: updated 01/10](#)

- Guidance for self-employed people getting less work or no work because of coronavirus.

[Kickstart Scheme: AIM and the MA working together to support the kickstart scheme: 11/09/20](#)

- Applications to the [Kickstart Scheme](#) are closing soon.
- After 17 December 2021 you will not be able to:
 - apply for a new Kickstart Scheme grant
 - add more jobs to an existing grant agreement
- The government will process applications submitted before this time or already in progress.

6. Funding

[Culture Recovery Fund continuity support](#)

[Third round of Culture Recovery Fund: 25/06](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund: Continuity Support programme](#)

[Arts Council England: Culture Recovery Fund: Emergency Resource Support](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Strand 1: Emergency Resource Support: updated 30/09](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Strand 2: Continuity Support: 03/06](#)

[BFI: Culture Recovery Fund for Independent Cinemas: Round 3](#)

England

[National Lottery Heritage Fund support: updated 03/11](#)

[Arts Council England Covid-19 support: updated 16/07](#)

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

[ACE Capital Investment Programme](#)

- New ACE fund to support cultural organisations to adjust buildings and equipment to operate safely, improve access, seize tech opportunities, and reduce environmental impact.

[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](#)
£50k and £5m grants for non-national accredited museums in England for maintenance.
- [Libraries Improvement Fund: 24/05](#)
£50k to £5m grants to help library services in England upgrade buildings and technology.
- [Cultural Development Fund: Round 2: 24/05](#)
£2-5m grants for local growth, to promote covid recovery, and regenerate communities

Northern Ireland

- [Northern Ireland Arts Council funding: updated 09/07](#)

Scotland

- [Museums Galleries Scotland covid financial support](#)
- [Creative Scotland Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#)

Wales

- [Arts Council Wales coronavirus funding](#)

[British Council International Collaboration Grants](#)

- Grants of up to £75k to support UK and international arts and culture organisations to collaborate on artistic projects. Deadline 4 November 2021.

[Museums Association covid support scheme](#)

- Grants of £500 to individual MA members whose finances have been affected by covid.

7. Business support

[Business support homepage](#)

[Autumn Budget and Spending Review](#)

[Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021: documents](#)

[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](#)

Grants and loans for businesses

[Local Restrictions Support Grants and Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 16/06](#)

[Recovery Loan Scheme: updated 27/10](#)

- Finance up to £10m per business. Government guarantees 80% of the finance to lender.
- Open until 31 December, subject to review.

[Cultural Relief Rate Rises: Museums and Galleries Exhibition Tax reliefs: 27/10](#)

- Temporary increase in the headline rates of relief for Museums and Galleries Exhibition Tax Relief for expenditure from 27 October 2021, gradually reduced to normal by 1 April 2024.

[Join the National Lottery Days Out campaign](#)

[National Lottery Days Out scheme launched](#)

- £25 vouchers available to National Lottery Lotto players to redeem against a day out.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance for the charity sector](#)

[VAT reduced rate for hospitality, holiday accommodation and attractions: updated 03/03](#)

- New VAT rate of 12.5% from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, replacing 5% reduced rate for hospitality and attractions, and for food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, cafés

[Live Events Reinsurance Scheme: updated 22/09](#)

[Government-backed insurance scheme to give boost to events industry: updated 06/08](#)

- Live Events Reinsurance Scheme, worth over £750 million.
- The government acts as a 'reinsurer' – stepping in with a guarantee to make sure insurers can offer the products events companies need.
- It will support live events across the UK that are open to the general public, and will cover costs incurred in the event of cancellation due to the event being legally unable to happen due to Government Covid restrictions.
- The headline scheme rules have been published by DCMS.

Support across the UK

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

8. 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](#)