

National perspectives in approach from across UK and Ireland

COVID-19: Updated English guidance issued 13th May 2020

Adelle Rowe, Natural England



Coronavirus – guidance on accessing green spaces safely

Guidance on using green spaces and protecting yourself and others,
Defra, EA, FC, NE

The risk of the coronavirus being passed on to others outdoors is considered to be low as long as people maintain social distancing.

Key changes/differences

- spend time outdoors,
- exercise more than once a day
- take part in other outdoor sports and activities
- drive to outdoor open spaces, irrespective of distance
- go swimming in either lakes or the sea
- all forms of water sports practiced on open waterways are allowed

Key message **Respect other people and protect the natural environment**

Includes Countryside Code

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-guidance-on-access-to-green-spaces>

Promotion

“Stay safe outdoors” video Defra Twitter

Countryside Code video on Natural England Twitter



Key Guidance from other departments

MHCLG

Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer public places - urban centres and green spaces:

Guidance for the owners and operators of urban centres and green spaces to help social distancing.

DCMS

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation

Guidance for the public, providers of outdoor sport facilities, elite athletes, personal trainers and coaches on the phased return of sport and recreation.

3 key messages

- Check in advance if the facilities you want to use have reopened.
- If exercising in the countryside remember to follow the countryside code and act responsibly.
- Once you are home remember to wash your hands

BEIS – guidance for employers

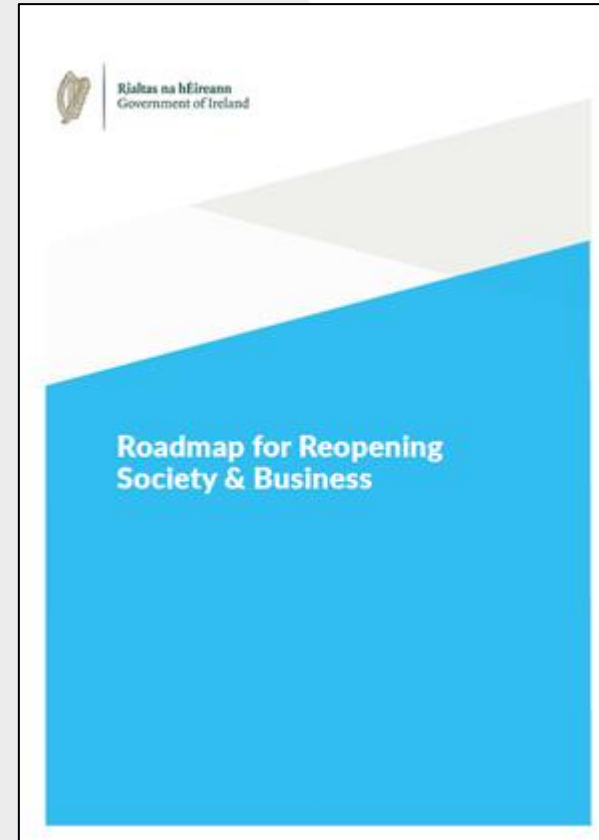
Working outdoors



Re-opening for recreation in Ireland

5-phased approach

Daithi de Forge,
Head of Recreation,
Coillte



Overview of Reopening Phases

Commencing May 18th



Coronavirus
COVID-19
National
Programme

1 (Commencing 18th May)

2

3

4

5

Community Health



5km travel limit.
Avoid unnecessary journeys.
Small groups meet outdoors.

5km to 20km.
Avoid unnecessary journeys.
Retail hours and visits for cocooners.
Short home visits in small groups
Easing of funeral restrictions.

5km to 20km.
Avoid unnecessary journeys.

Travel beyond home area
Short but slightly larger home visits.
Small social gatherings (e.g. small weddings, baptisms).

Travel beyond home area
Some larger social gatherings (e.g. weddings).

Education & Childcare



Childcare for essential healthcare workers.
Opening of schools and colleges for teachers.

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Phased opening of crèches and pre-schools for children of essential workers.

Phased opening of crèches, childminders and pre-schools for all.

Schools, 3rd level and adult education centres opening on a phased basis for 2020/21 academic year.

Economic Activity & Work



Phased return of outdoor workers
Remote working continues for all that can do so.

Limited return to onsite working subject to compliance capability
Remote working continues for all that can do so.

Return to low-interaction work.
Remote working continues for all that can do so.

Return to work where employees cannot remote work.
Staggered hours.
Remote working continues for all that can do so.

Phased return to work across all sectors.
Remote working continues for all that can do so.

Retail, Services & Commercial Activity



Retail that is mainly outdoor + home-ware, opticians, motor, bicycle & repair, office products, electrical, IT, phone sales & repair open.
All subject to social distancing.

Small retail outlets with control of numbers open.
Marts open.
All subject to social distancing.

Open non-essential retail outlets with street level access.

Gradual easing of restrictions on higher-risk services. e.g. Barbers and hairdressers

Further easing of restrictions higher-risk services. e.g. shopping centres, tattoo, piercing.

Cultural & Social



Open outdoor public amenities, incl. pitches, tennis courts and golf courses, tourism sites, beaches and walks. Outdoor sporting and fitness activities, in groups max. four people, resume
All subject to social distancing

Open public libraries.
Small group team sports training (not matches) resume.
All subject to social distancing.

Open playgrounds. / Behind closed doors sporting activities. Open cafes and restaurants providing on-premises food & beverages—all subject to social distancing and strict cleaning protocols

Museums, galleries and places of worship re-open. Sports and team leagues (e.g. Soccer & GAA) and swimming pools.
All subject to social distancing.

Pubs, bars, nightclubs, theatres, cinemas and casinos. Close physical contact sports. Open gyms, exercise, dance studios and other indoor and outdoor festivals, events and mass gatherings.

Transport & Travel



Social distancing and hygiene measures continue for public and private transport as passengers increase.
Specific measures at ports and airports.

Numbers restricted and monitored. Social distancing and hygiene measures continue for public and private transport as passengers increase.
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Travel restrictions on numbers travelling to and in major urban centres. Social distancing and hygiene measures continue for public and private transport as passengers increase. Specific measures at ports and airports.

Gradually decrease restrictions in major urban centres. Hotels etc. on a limited occupancy basis re-open. Bars remain closed. Social distancing and hygiene measures continue. Specific measures at ports and airports.

Resume tourist travel to offshore islands. Social distancing and hygiene measures continue for public and private transport as passengers increase. Specific measures at ports and airports.

Five phases

1. May 18th
2. June 8th
3. June 29th
4. July 20th
5. Aug 10th

Phase 1 commenced this week

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2

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6. Cultural & Social Measures					
Phases	1	2	3	4	5
a) Culture & religious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open outdoor public amenities and tourism sites (e.g. carparks, beaches, mountain walks etc) where people are non-stationary and where social distancing can be maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open public libraries with numbers limited, social distancing observed and strict hand hygiene on entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open playgrounds where social distancing and hygiene can be maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open museums, galleries, and other cultural outlets where people are non-stationary, social distancing can be maintained and strict hand hygiene on entry Open religious and places of worship where social distancing can be maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open theatres and cinemas where social distancing can be maintained
b) Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open outdoor public sports amenities (e.g. pitches, tennis courts, golf courses etc) where social distancing can be maintained Permit people to engage in outdoor sporting and fitness activities, either individually or in very small groups (maximum 4 people), where social distancing can be maintained and where there is no contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit people to engage in outdoor sporting and fitness activities, involving small group team sports training (but not matches) where social distancing can be maintained and where there is no contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit "behind closed doors" sporting activities events where arrangements are in place to enable participants to maintain social distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit sports team leagues (e.g. soccer and GAA) but only where limitations are placed on the numbers of spectators and where social distancing can be maintained Open public swimming pools where effective cleaning can be carried out and social distancing can be maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit close physical contact sports (rugby, boxing, wrestling) Open gyms, exercise, dance studios and sports clubs, only where regular and effective cleaning can be carried out and social distancing can be maintained Permit sports spectatorship which involve mass gatherings only in accordance with both indoor and outdoor numbers restrictions and where social distancing can be complied with
c) Social / Recreational			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open cafés and restaurants providing on-premises food & beverages where they can comply with social distancing measures and strict cleaning in operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of hotels, hostels, caravan parks, holiday parks for social and tourist activities initially on a limited occupancy basis (or number of people per square metre) and then increasing over time (and where social distancing is complied with). Hotel bars remain closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor recreational venues (roller skating, bowling alley, bingo halls where numbers can be limited, cleaning can be maintained, restrictions where social distancing can be complied with. Open pubs, bars, nightclubs, casinos, where social distancing and strict cleaning can be complied with Festivals, events and other social and cultural mass gatherings only in accordance with both indoor and outdoor numbers and where social distancing can be complied with.

In summary:

- All car-parks and outdoor sites are now reopened with NPWS, OPW, Coillte moving largely in tandem, but some exceptions
- Travel restrictions are calming surges (currently 5km, then 20km, then general travel)
- Toilet blocks are closed
- Playgrounds remain closed until June 29th
- Other countryside attractions remain closed until July 20th (country houses, visitor centres, etc)
- Supporting Govt direction on social distancing but not policing it
- Larger outdoor events not allowed until Aug 10th
- Caveat here is that if the COVID numbers don't



doors

Update from Scotland

Kevin Lafferty

Access, Health and Recreation Policy
Advisor



Scottish
Forestry

Coilltearachd
na h-Alba



Headlines:

- Encourage people to stay local, maintain social distancing and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) during their permitted exercise
- Restriction on daily exercise were relaxed in Scotland on 11 May you are allowed multiple outings per day
- Compliance with 'stay local' message has been very good
- SOAC Campaign Spring 2020 – COVID-19 messaging

**Do not travel by car to take
your local exercise during
Covid-19 restrictions.**

**Make use of the paths, open
spaces and quiet roads near
your home to enjoy your walk,
jog or cycle.**



KNOW THE CODE
[outdooraccess-scotland.scot](https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

Next Steps:

- Scottish Government will publish its Route Map today 19th May!
- We expect an orderly staged approach for lifting restrictions on outdoor recreational access in Scotland
- Driving will be key we hope to avoid a 'tap off tap on' situation
- A significant % of outdoor recreational staff are furloughed and employers need advanced notice to bring staff back
- Land managers are preparing to re-open, getting ready for inspections and safety checks

Covid-19: Wales Update

Dave Liddy

Recreation Safety Advisor



Lockdown

Stay at home and contact only within households (limited exceptions).

Red

Seeing one person from outside your household to provide or receive care or support whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing.

Amber

Taking exercise with one other person or small group whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing.

Green

Meeting one other person or small group to socialise whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing.

Lockdown

Stay at home and only leave the house for essential purposes.

Red

Some opening of outdoor cultural and other sites. Relaxation and leisure outdoors where local.

Amber

More cultural and leisure sites to reopen (e.g. museums and galleries). Weddings and other events with limited capacity and physical distancing.

Green

All special occasions and cultural and leisure activities permitted with precautions in place.

Lockdown

Exercise once a day outside of house on own or with household.

Red

Exercise more than once a day and incidental activity locally.

Outdoor sports courts to open. Elite athletes resume some activity.

Amber

Team and individual sports, non-contact sport and games in small groups indoors and outdoors. Some outdoor events with limited capacity and events behind closed doors for broadcast.

Green

All sports, leisure and cultural activities open, with physical distancing. All events resume with limited capacity.

Lockdown

Leave the house for essential travel only.

Red

Local travel, including for click-and-collect retail. Promote active travel and adapt public transport for physical distancing.

Allow outdoor leisure and recreation.

Amber

Travel for leisure, access non-essential retail and services, and more people travelling to work.

Green

Unrestricted travel subject to ongoing precautions.

Site Management



Rhybudd: Caead Coronafeirws
Warning: **Coronavirus Closures**

Safle'n dal ar gau

Mae'r cyfyngiadau yn parhau o hyd.

Mae ein canolfannau ymwelwyr, meysydd parcio, mannau chwarae a llwybrau beicio mynydd yn dal i fod ar gau. Cofiwch gadw at y canllawiau diweddaraf i Gymru - Cadw'n heini, cadw'n iach. Cadw'n lleol.

Peidiwch â theithio
Gwnewch ymarfer corff awyr agored yn agos i'ch cartref

<https://llyw.cymru/coronafeirws>

Site still closed

Restrictions are still in place

Our visitor centres, car parks, play areas and mountain bike trails across Wales remain closed. Please follow the latest guidance - Stay active, stay healthy, stay local.

Do not travel
Exercise outside close to your home

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

Plan / Tel: **0300 065 3000**

www.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru
www.naturalresources.wales

Rheolladau Coronafeirws
Coronavirus Restrictions

Cadw'n heini

Cadw'n iach

Cadw'n lleol

Ar yr amod nad oes gennych chi, neu rywun yn eich cartref symptomau o Covid 19, y cyngor cyfredol yw ei bod yn ddiogel i chi fynd allan i ymarfer, cyn belled a'ch bod yn dilyn yr hyn a ganlyn:

Stay active

Stay healthy

Stay local

Provided you, or someone in your household, are not displaying symptoms of Covid 19, current advice is that it is safe for you to go outside for exercise, so long as you:

2m
6'6"

Cadwch 2 fetr / 6½ throedfedd oddi wrth eraill bob amser

Ewch ar eich pen eich hun neu gydag aelodau o'ch cartref

Byddwch yn wyladwrus ynglŷn â goichi dwylo a hylendd
Cofiwch fod gathiau, camfeydd a strythurau awyr agored eraill yn cael eu cyffwrdd yn rheolaidd

Be vigilant with hand washing and hygiene
Be aware that gates, stiles and other outdoor structures are touched regularly

Peidiwch â gwneud gweithgareddau peryglus
Cadwch yn ddiogel yn ystod y cyfnod hwn pan fo baich cynyddol ar ein gwasanaethau brys ac iechyd

Do not undertake new or risky activities
Stay safe during this time of increased burden on our emergency and health services

Dilynwch y Cod Cefn Gwlad
Ystyriwch ffarmwyr, triffeddiawyr, rheolwyr tir ac eraill sy'n gweithio'n galed i sicrhau bod ein silffoedd wedi'u stocio a bod ein seilweith yn weithredol

Follow the Countryside Code
Consider farmers, landowners, land managers and others who are working hard to keep our shelves stocked and infrastructure running

<https://llyw.cymru/coronafeirws> <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

www.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru
www.naturalresources.wales Plan / Tel: **0300 065 3000**

The approach in Northern Ireland

Mike McClure, SportNI



The lockdown situation in N. Ireland

NI Executive 5 step plan – no time frame



Steps do not necessarily apply at the same time in different sectors

Sectoral examples are illustrations, and are not intended to be comprehensive.

	Step 1 (19 th May)	Step 2
Family and community	Groups of 4-6 people who do not share a household can meet outdoors maintaining social distancing.	Groups of up to 10 can meet outdoors.
Sport cultural and leisure activities	Outdoor spaces and public sport amenities to open Can undertake for example walking, running, cycling, some water activities , golf, tennis	Resumption of, for example, team sports training on a non-contact basis in small groups

Current position

National Outdoor Recreation Forum	Recommendations for any easement issued to DFC and DAERA Ministers on 1st May 2020 “Stay Local, Stay Safe, Stay Apart”
Strategic Outdoor Recreation Group (Led by DAERA)	Series of interdepartmental meetings. Developing guidance and support for land managers Developing clear messages with stakeholders and representative bodies
Sport NI	Framework for resumption of sport in NI currently awaiting Ministerial approval

Current reality

- Very high level of compliance in NI - major sites like Mourne have been quiet.
- National Governing Bodies for outdoor sports producing good guidance on their websites for resumption based on 19th May announcements
- Public angling estate declared open by Minister for DAERA on 18th May
- Other outdoor sites working to re-open by end of May
- There is no limit on travel for when you are permitted to leave home

Excellent insights on OR in N. Ireland

<http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/>

