

Roadmap - Step 3

New rules will apply from 17 May, allowing friends and family to meet indoors for the first time this year.

Step 3 of the government's roadmap out of coronavirus restrictions means that businesses who were unable to offer outdoor hospitality will be opening for the first time. Hospitality businesses can now allow people to eat and drink inside ensuring that they follow the guidelines.

For businesses that are already open, Step 2 advice remains and this additional information can be used alongside it.

Step 1

Permits up to six people or two households meeting outdoors from 29 March (sometimes referred to as recreational contact). You must not meet indoors with anybody you do not live with or have formed a support bubble with. No impact on the hospitality business.

Step 2

Outdoor hospitality venues may reopen on 12 April. No need to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and there will be no curfew. Customers must order, eat and drink while seated. Weddings and wakes could have up to 15 people. Indoor events that bring people together - even if they do not mix with other households - must not run until Step 3.

Step 3

Indoor areas of hospitality venues are allowed to reopen no earlier than 17 May. As per outdoor venues, table service only is allowed. Groups are limited to six people or two households indoors and up to 30 people are now allowed outdoors, as well as at weddings and wakes.

Step 4

This will be at least five weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June. By Step 4, the government hopes to be able to introduce the following (subject to review):

- No legal limits on social contact
- Reopening of nightclubs
- Larger events. No legal limit on live events

Remember to check your local authority website for the latest information about the roadmap for businesses.

Frequently asked questions about **Step 3** of the government's roadmap are answered below:

1. What are the new rules for people sitting indoors?

When sitting indoors, the rule of 6 or two households will apply. There is no limit to the number of people from two households who can sit together. Each household can include a support bubble.

2. Is there still a requirement to order, eat and drink whilst seated?

For premises that serve alcohol, even if alcohol is not being ordered, people will be served at their tables and will still need to order, be served and consume food and drinks whilst seated.

If a venue does not serve alcohol, customers can order and collect food and drink from a counter, but they must consume the food and drink while seated at a table.

3. For outdoor hospitality in Step 3, can people sit in groups of up to 30 together, or is it still tables of six?

People can sit as a group of up to 30. Businesses will need to assess if they can safely accommodate this number of customers to reduce the prospect of groups mixing.

4. Has anything changed with regards to music allowed indoors or outdoors?

Live music performances are now allowed indoors and outdoors. Check updated government guidance for the performing arts for more information.

Take steps to help prevent customers raising their voices, because this can increase transmission risk. Try to discourage people from cheering or singing along. People should also avoid close contact activities such as dancing. Consider asking performers to be supportive of these measures.

5. What else has changed that I need to be aware of?

For those premises that are opening up for the first time since last year, there has been a change in the requirements for NHS Test and Trace. Previously only one member of each party needed to check in, however now every person over 16 needs to check in or leave their contact details.

Remember to do your risk assessment in advance to make sure your venue is COVID safe, including all the measures referred to in this pack such as adequate fresh air, regular cleaning and signage. Implementing these measures for your business will help to minimise risk.

The checklist for businesses in this pack provides a handy reference on what you might need to consider to be COVID safe.

In preparation for Step 4, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures such as the rules on one metre plus or the wearing of face coverings, and may change them if it's considered safe to do so.

