

Current covid restrictions in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

England

On Wednesday 19th of January, Prime Minister Boris Johnson [announced](#) the easing of England's Plan B coronavirus restrictions. The prime minister immediately withdrew the work from home order, and employers were instead told to follow the Government's [work safely during coronavirus guidance](#).

The Government will lift several other restrictions shortly. On **Thursday 27th of January**, England will fully return to Plan A; this means:

- Mandatory **Covid passes will no longer be compulsory** to gain entry to venues and events
- Face masks will no longer be mandatory anywhere in any public spaces - although they will still be "recommended" in some places, London Mayor Sadiq Khan has said they will remain mandatory on TFL services.

The Prime Minister has also announced plans to remove mandatory self-isolation for people who test positive for Covid. The current regulations expire on the **24th of March**, but there are plans to bring this date forward if the data allows. This means that anyone who returns a positive test result in England before the 24th of March will currently still have to isolate for a minimum of five days.

Until the changes are made on the 27th of January "Plan B", measures include:

- Compulsory face coverings in most indoor public venues, including theatres and cinemas - as well as on public transport and in shops and hairdressers - but not in pubs or restaurants, or venues such as gyms where it's "not practical"
- People must show that they're vaccinated, have recently tested negative (or are exempt) to gain entry to nightclubs and large-scale events.

Scotland

On 18th of January, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon [confirmed](#) Scotland's next steps in lifting the protective Covid-19 measures introduced before Christmas.

The remaining statutory measures introduced in response to Omicron have now been **lifted**:

- Limits on attendance at indoor events – 100 standing or 200 seated have been removed
- There is no requirement for 1 metre social distancing between different groups in indoor public places;
- No requirement for table service in hospitality premises serving alcohol on the premises;
- Non-professional indoor contact sports can resume
- There is no limit on the number of households meeting indoors.

The Scottish Government will continue to ask people to work from home whenever possible at this stage - and for employers to facilitate this. However, the Scottish Government will engage with

businesses now about a return to a more hybrid approach from the start of February. The **measures still in place** are as follows:

- The requirement for businesses, service providers and places of worship to take reasonable measures to minimise the spread of Covid on their premises.
- Face coverings must still be worn in public indoor settings and on public transport.
- Hospitality premises should continue to collect contact details for customers
- The Covid certification scheme will continue to apply for now to large indoor and outdoor events and to late night venues – this means people must provide proof of their vaccination status or a recent negative test.
 - Guidance stipulates that organisers of events with 1000 or more in attendance should check the certification status of at least 50% of attendees or 1,000 people, whichever is higher.

The Scottish Government will extend the Covid certification scheme (Covid passports) to other hospitality premises at this stage. However, this will be reconsidered if circumstances change in any significant way.

Wales

Currently, in Wales a gradual easing of [Covid](#) restrictions is underway:

- Limits on numbers at outdoor events were removed on Friday 21st of January
- On **Friday 28th of January**, nightclubs will open, and gatherings in pubs and restaurants will no longer be limited to six people. Covid passes will still be required for large events, cinemas, nightclubs and theatres.

The **current measures** that are in place are as follows:

- Social distancing of 2m (6ft) in all premises open to the public and workplaces, where reasonable
- Gatherings limited to six people in premises such as hospitality venues, cinemas and theatres
- Additional measures at licensed premises, including table service and collecting contact details
- Maximum number of 30 allowed at indoor events
- Nightclubs are closed.

Other measures include:

- NHS Covid Pass needed for entry to cinemas, theatres and concert halls, and many other events
- Working from home wherever possible
- Compulsory face coverings in schools, on public transport, and in shops and hospitals
- Secondary school pupils are asked to test for Covid three times a week.

Northern Ireland

Covid-19 [measures](#) also in Northern Ireland are also being gradually relaxed:

- Rules on table service in hospitality businesses and the "rule of six" per table ended on Friday 21st of January

- The guidance of three households being allowed to meet in a home were also removed.

From **Wednesday 26th of January**:

- Nightclubs will be allowed to reopen, with dancing and indoor standing events also permitted again
- **Proof of Covid status will no longer be legally required in hospitality premises.** (They will remain in place for nightclubs and indoor unseated and partially-seated events with 500 or more people)
- The need for offices to "take reasonable measures for 2m (6ft) social distancing" will be removed, although risk assessments should be carried out.

Other measures currently in place include:

- Face coverings are compulsory in shops, indoor-seated venues and visitor attractions, public transport and some other settings
- Post-primary pupils must wear a face covering inside school buildings, as well as on school transport. Staff are encouraged to wear masks in school areas where they can't socially distance.