

# DCMS Museums and Galleries Sector Coronavirus bulletin

29 November 2021

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

**NEW** [Prime Minister sets out new measures as Omicron variant identified in UK: 27/11](#)

[PM opening statement at COVID-19 press conference: 27/11](#)

[Government takes decisive action against new COVID-19 variant: 28/11](#)

[Oral statement to update on the Omicron variant: 29/11](#)

- New temporary and precautionary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant in the UK. Measures will be reviewed in three weeks time.
- Face coverings will be made compulsory in shops and on public transport in England from Tuesday 30 November.
- Face coverings will be mandatory in museum shops.
- They will not be mandatory in other areas of museums, and all hospitality settings exempt.
- All international arrivals must take a Day 2 PCR test and self-isolate until they receive a negative result.
- All contacts of suspected Omicron cases must self-isolate, regardless of their vaccination status. They will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

**NEW** [Red list of countries and territories: updated 28/11](#)

[Travel to England from another country during coronavirus: updated 28/11](#)

- South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia have been added to the red list.

**NEW** [Government publishes final Events Research Programme reports: 26/11](#)

[Events Research Programme: Phase II and III findings: 26/11](#)

- Over 2 million people at 31 events contributed to research on reducing Covid transmission risk. Findings have informed government policy on reopening the live events sector.

[Medicine, Myth and Memory: Trusted Voices in the Pandemic](#)

- Thursday 9 December 2021 10-3pm. Webinar showcasing and celebrating the creativity and innovation that UK medical museums have demonstrated this past 18 months.

## 2. Current situation

[COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021: updated 09/11](#)

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

[PM opening statement at COVID-19 press conference: 15/11](#)

- 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 29/11**

##### Face coverings: updated 29/11

- Face coverings compulsory in shops and on public transport in England from 30 November.
- Face coverings will be mandatory in museum shops.
- They will not be mandatory in other areas of museums, and all hospitality settings exempt.
- 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.

#### **International travel update: 19/11**

##### **Red list of countries and territories: updated 28/11**

##### **Travel abroad from England during coronavirus: updated 04/10**

##### **Travel to England from another country during coronavirus: updated 28/11**

##### **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 22/11**

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 15/11](#)
- [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.

#### [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 18/11](#)

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

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

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

#### [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 09/11](#)
- [Events and attractions: updated 09/11](#)
- [Shops, branches and close contact services: updated 09/11](#)
- [Volunteering guidance: updated 01/10](#)
- [Offices, factories and labs: updated 09/11](#)
- [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 23/11](#)

[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](#)

[Make a late 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, or make a late claim.

[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, or 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: 925 cultural organisations supported by £107 million: 19/11](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Strand 1: Emergency Resource Support: updated 24/11](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Strand 2: Continuity Support: updated 16/11](#)

[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](#)

[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.
- Supports live events open to the public, covers 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](#)