

Guidance for the safe and full reopening of the marine industry, boating and watersports in England.

2 March 2021

On 22 February, the Prime Minister announced the Government's roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions in England. The design of the roadmap has been informed by the latest scientific evidence and seeks a balance between our key social and economic priorities, whilst preserving the health and safety of the country. The scientific evidence shows that opening too early or too quickly risks a further lockdown.

The approach focuses on data, not dates. Each step has a "no earlier than" date, 5 weeks later than the previous step, to allow time to assess the impact of the previous step and provide a week's notice before changes occur. The steps for easing restrictions will be taken at the same time across England in a national approach, in the absence of a significant regional disparity.

At each step the Government will make an assessment against the following four tests:

- The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
- Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
- Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
- Our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

From 29 March, as part of the first step, Stay at Home restrictions will be lifted. The Government will continue to advise that people minimise travel up to and including Step 3. This means avoiding making unnecessary journeys, combining trips and avoiding travel at peak times where possible. People should avoid travelling further than is reasonably necessary to take part in their activity - for instance visiting shops or making use of services closer to home.

All references to permitted activities below assume that boats allow for social distancing rules to be adhered to. COVID-Secure guidance will also remain in place up to and including Step 3 (subject to a proposed review of social distancing rules ahead of Step 4).

Premises must not cater for groups larger than the legal limits at each step unless meeting the conditions for a permitted organised gathering. These will be reintroduced at Step 2 for outdoor gatherings and Step 3 for indoor gatherings. These gatherings or events must be operated by a business, charity, public body or similar organisation and can be organised subject to specific conditions: that they comply with COVID-Secure guidance including taking reasonable steps to limit the risk of transmission, complete a related risk assessment; and ensure that those attending do not mix beyond what is permitted by the social contact limits (unless another exemption exists, such as for organised sport or exercise, supervised activities for children or a significant life event).

¹ Those eligible to form a support bubble will still be able to do so, enabling close contact for many of those in most need of support, and will continue to be counted as part of the same household.

ENGLAND ONLY	Step 1		Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
	8 th March	29 th March	No earlier than 12 th April	No earlier than 17 th May	No earlier than 21 st June
Hotel Boats	Not permitted.	Not permitted.	Self-contained accommodation (those that do not require shared use of bathing, entry/exit, catering or sleeping facilities) permitted. Use by single household only.	6 people / 2 households per booking *All holiday accommodation can be opened at Step 3 (subject to social contact limits). No legal restriction on the sharing of facilities if social contact rules adhered to. For example - any shared dormitory could only have 6 people/2 households.	No restrictions. (subject to review).
Self Drive Day Hire	Permitted for the purpose of open air recreation in a public outdoor place (vessel must be open air). Single household/bubble only. Stay local and minimise time spent away from home.	6 people / 2 households per boat (if vessel is open air). Single household (if vessel is enclosed). *To note that the definition of indoor/outdoor is to be guided by legislation on smoke free premises. From the All Tiers regs: a place is indoors if it would be considered to be enclosed, or substantially	Same as Step 1.	No restrictions (other than usual capacity of vessel, if open air). 6 people or 2 households per boat (if vessel is enclosed)	No restrictions. (subject to review).

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		enclosed, for the purposes of section 2 of the Health Act 2006, under the Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006			
Self Drive Holiday Hire	Not permitted.	Not permitted.	Single household / bubble per boat.	6 people / 2 households per boat.	No restrictions. (subject to review).
Skipped Boats	Not permitted.	<p>It is up to the discretion of each individual skipper whether your skipper boat may operate compliantly under each step. Skippers should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social contact rules governing indoor and outdoor gathering which apply at each step. Your ability to ensure appropriate social distancing between individuals/households at each step. <p>N.B. the skipper does not count towards Rule of 6 or 2 household limits.</p>			No restrictions, (subject to review).
Fixed Trading Boats	Takeaway only. Not including alcohol).	Takeaway only. Not including alcohol).	<p>Outdoor table service. 6 people / 2 households per booking.</p> <p>Takeaway alcohol permitted. Must follow COVID-Secure rules.</p>	<p>6 people / 2 households per booking indoors.</p> <p>Max. 30 people per booking outdoors <i>if vessel is open air and is COVID secure</i></p>	No restrictions, (subject to review).
Watersports Activity	<p>Private watersports permitted for recreation on waterways accessible to the public. (2 people / 1 household).</p> <p>Stay local and minimise time</p>	Outdoor watersports venues may open. Formal club activity can restart. Private groups of 6 people / 2 households.	Outdoor attractions at waterparks and aqua parks may reopen.	<p>Indoor attractions at waterparks and aqua parks may reopen.</p> <p>Private groups of up to 30 outdoors.</p>	No restrictions. (subject to review).

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	<p>spent away from home.</p> <p>(Subject to complying with restrictions around water sport facilities which remain closed with limited exceptions until 29 March)</p>				
<p>Private boats</p>	<p>Private boating (where vessel is open air) permitted for recreation on waterways accessible to the public.</p> <p>Single household / bubble per boat.</p> <p>Stay local and minimise time spent away from home.</p> <p>(Subject to complying with restrictions around water sport facilities)</p>	<p>Private boats for recreation (1 household for indoor boats & 6 people / 2 households for outdoor boats)</p> <p>Minimise travel (stay at home rules lifted). Overnight stays should not take place.</p>	<p>Same as step 1 plus guidance against overnight stays lifted (<i>single household bubble only</i>)</p> <p>Minimise travel</p>	<p>Same as step 2 with 6 people / 2 households for indoor boats, max. 30 for outdoor boats</p> <p>Minimise travel</p>	<p>No restrictions. (subject to review).</p>

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