Closing certain businesses and venues in England

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

The government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, staying at home and away from others, and asked that schools only remain open for those children who absolutely need to attend.

All businesses and venues outlined in the table below must not open to the public. Failure to follow the law relating to these closures can lead to the individuals responsible for the business being issued a prohibition notice, a fixed penalty notice or prosecution.

Takeaway and delivery services may remain open and operational in line with guidance below. Online retail may continue.

Employers who have people in their offices or onsite are advised to ensure that employees are able to follow Public Health England guidelines.

1. Businesses and venues that must remain closed to members of the public

To reduce social contact, the government has required by law the businesses and venues in the left-hand column to close to members of the public. Legal exceptions, and guidance on their scope, are set out in the right-hand column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food and drink</th>
<th>Exceptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restaurants and public houses, bars or other food and drink establishments including within hotels and members’ clubs such as dining rooms</td>
<td>Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational. This can be a new activity supported by permitted development rights in England. This covers the provision of hot or cold food that has been prepared for consumers for collection or delivery to be consumed, reheated or cooked by consumers off the premises. Room service in hotels and accommodation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cafés and canteens  
Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational (and as above).

Cafés and canteens at hospitals, care homes or schools; prison and military canteens; services providing food or drink to the homeless may remain open.

Where there are no practical alternatives, other workplace canteens can remain open to provide food for their staff. For example, this could include canteens at police or fire services’ places of work.

However, where possible, the government advises that staff should be encouraged to bring their own food, and distributors can move to takeaway. Employers are encouraged to take measures to minimise the number of people in the canteen, for example by using a rota.

Retail  Exceptions

Hairdressers, barbers, beauty and nail salons, including piercing and tattoo parlours
All retail, other than those exempt, must close their premises to members of the public. However staff may be present to make deliveries or provide services in response to orders such as those through telephone, online, or mail.

- Food retailers, including supermarkets
- Dental services, opticians, audiology services, chiropody, chiropractors, osteopaths and other medical or health services (including physiotherapy and podiatry services), and services relating to mental health.
- Pharmacies and chemists, including non-dispensing pharmacies
- Petrol stations
- Bicycle shops

- Homeware, building supplies and hardware stores
- Veterinary surgeries and pet shops
- Agricultural supplies shops
- Convenience stores, corner shops and newsagents
- Off-licences and licenced shops selling alcohol, including those within breweries
- Laundrettes and dry cleaners
- Post offices

- Taxi or vehicle hire businesses
- Car repair and MOT services
- Car parks
- Banks, building societies, short-term loan providers, credit unions, savings clubs, cash points, currency exchange offices, businesses for the transmission of money, and businesses which cash cheques
- Storage and distribution facilities, including delivery drop off or collection points where they are on the premises of any of the above businesses
- Public toilets
- Shopping centres may stay open but only units of the types listed above may trade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outdoor markets</th>
<th>Livestock markets and stalls selling food.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auction houses</td>
<td>Livestock auctions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>Exceptions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Holiday accommodation including hotels, hostels, B&Bs, holiday rentals, campsites and boarding houses | Where people live in these as interim abodes whilst their main residence is unavailable, or they live in them permanently, they may continue to do so. **Critical workers** and non-UK residents who are unable to travel to their country of residence during this period can continue to stay in hotels or similar where required.

People who are unable to move into a new home due to the current restrictions can also stay.

Where hotels, hostels, and B&Bs are providing rooms to support homeless and other vulnerable people such as those who cannot safely stay in their home, through arrangements with local authorities and other public bodies, they may remain open.

Those attending a funeral will be able to use hotels when returning home would be impractical.

Hotels and other accommodation listed are allowed to host blood donation sessions. |
|---|---|
| Caravan parks/sites for commercial uses | Where people live permanently in caravan parks or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their main residence is not available, they may continue to do so.

Caravan parks also have the same exemptions as hotels and other forms of accommodation listed above. |
<p>| <strong>Non-residential institutions</strong> | <strong>Exceptions</strong> |
| Libraries | Digital library services and those where orders are taken electronically, by telephone or by post (for example no-contact Home Library Services) may continue. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community centres</th>
<th>Community centres can open for the purposes of hosting essential voluntary activities and urgent public services, such as food banks, homeless services.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A community centre can open temporarily to host a blood donation session for these services only. Public Health England guidelines should be followed, maintaining a distance of two metres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of worship</td>
<td>Funerals may be held, but it is advised that they be conducted in line with guidance from Public Health England.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burial grounds and cemeteries can remain open. Grounds surrounding crematoria may also remain open, including gardens of remembrance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Providers of funeral services, such as funeral directors and funeral homes, may remain open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A minister of religion or worship leader may leave their home to travel to their place of worship. A place of worship may broadcast an act of worship, whether over the internet or otherwise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A place of worship can remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary activities and urgent public services, such as food banks, homeless services, and blood donation sessions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assembly and leisure</th>
<th>Exceptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Museums and galleries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightclubs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinemas, theatres and concert halls</td>
<td>Small group performances for the purposes of live streaming could be permissible where Public Health England guidelines are observed and no audience members attend the venue.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bingo halls, casinos and betting shops

Spas and massage parlours

Skating rinks

Indoor fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools or other indoor leisure centres

Any suitable assembly or leisure premises may open for blood donation sessions.

Indoor arcades, bowling alleys, soft play centres and similar facilities

Funfairs

Outdoor recreation

Exception

Playgrounds, sports courts, outdoor gyms and outdoor swimming pools.

Parks can remain open. See further government guidance on access to green spaces.

2. Work carried out in people’s homes

There is separate guidance on work carried out in other people’s homes, for example by tradespeople carrying out repairs and maintenance, cleaners, or those providing paid-for childcare in a child’s home.

3. Takeaway food and food delivery facilities may remain open and operational.

This means people can continue to enter premises to access takeaway services, including delivery drivers.

Businesses are encouraged to take orders online or by telephone, and businesses must not provide seating areas, indoors and outdoors, for customers to consume food and drink on. Ordering in advance is strongly encouraged to avoid waiting in, as per Public Health England guidelines.
In England planning regulation has been changed to enable restaurants, cafés and pubs which do not currently offer delivery and hot food takeaway to do so. The legislation can be accessed online.

People must not consume food or drinks on site at restaurants, cafés or pubs whilst waiting for takeaway food.

Those venues offering takeaway or delivery services must not include alcoholic beverages in this list if their licence does not already permit.

4. Length of closure

We asked the businesses and venues outlined above not to open for trade from close of trade 23 March 2020.

The first point of review for these measures was on 16 April 2020. This concluded that the current measures will be continued for a further three weeks. They will then be reviewed again. This review will consider their necessity and effectiveness in light of changing circumstances.

5. Compliance

As of 1pm on 26 March 2020 new regulations extending the restrictions are now enforceable by law in England due to the threat to public health. These supersede regulations that came into force at 2pm on 21 March 2020.

Everyone is instructed to comply with the rules issued by the government in relation to coronavirus, in order to protect both themselves and others.

An owner, proprietor or manager carrying out a business (or a person responsible for other premises) who contravenes the regulations, without reasonable excuse, commits an offence.

In England, Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers will monitor compliance with these regulations, with police support provided if appropriate. Businesses and venues that breach them will be subject to prohibition notices, and a person, who is 18 or over, carrying on a business in contravention of the regulations may be issued with a fixed penalty. With the support of the police, prohibition notices can be used to require compliance with the regulations including requiring that an activity ceases. It is also an offence, without reasonable excuse, to fail to comply with a prohibition notice.

If prohibition notices are not complied with, or fixed penalty notice not paid, you may also be taken to court with magistrates able to impose potentially unlimited fines.

6. Financial support

Her Majesty’s Treasury also announced on 20 March 2020 a comprehensive series of measures supporting wages, cash-flow for businesses, and the welfare system.
7. Business support

In England, under the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG) announced on 16 March 2020, businesses and venues in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors will be eligible for cash grants of up to £25,000 per property.

Eligible businesses and venues in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of up to £15,000 will receive a grant of £10,000. Eligible businesses and venues in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of between £15,001 and £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000. Businesses and venues with a rateable value of over £51,000 are not included in this scheme.

For more information please visit the government’s business support page.

8. Business rates

In England, as announced on 16 March 2020, the government will provide a business rates holiday for businesses and venues in the retail, hospitality and/or leisure sector. This includes the businesses and venues in scope for closure listed above. This will apply automatically to your next business rates bill in April 2020.

9. Further information

This guidance will be updated regularly as the situation develops and to reflect frequently asked questions. For information about support for business, please go to the government’s Business Support page or visit GOV.UK.

10. Scope of Guidance

The Devolved Administrations have issued their own law and guidance on these matters which can be found below:

- Wales
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland

Guidance was enforceable in Wales from 4pm on 26 March 2020, Scotland from 7.15pm on 26 March 2020, and Northern Ireland from 11pm on 28 March 2020.