

Annex E – Updates and National Headlines from Government

- This document details main the announcements and key headlines from Government, Public Health England and the NHS.
- It covers the period from 18 June, up until the publishing date of July’s report.
- Each announcement includes links with further details.

Recommendation: Members of Executive Board note this record.

Snapshot of key headlines:

- [Confirmed Step 4 will go ahead.](#)
- Vaccines [highly effective in clinical risks groups](#). Over 35 million have had [both doses of a vaccine](#).
- [Infection rates for double jabbed](#) under-65s are three times lower than in unvaccinated under-65s.
- [Changes to testing in schools announced](#) from 19 July (Step 4).
- [New self-isolation rules](#) come into effect from 16 August.
- The [George Cross awarded to the NHS](#) by Her Majesty the Queen.
- Plans to offer over 50’s [booster vaccinations from September](#) as per [JCVI interim advice](#).
- [Surge testing deployed in Leeds](#).
- All adults [aged 18 years and over](#) can now get a vaccine.

Snapshot of changes to restrictions and guidance ([Step 4](#)):

- No restrictions on the number of people allowed to gather (scrapping the rule of six). The one-meter-plus rule / social distancing will also cease.
- [Double vaccinated people](#) and the under-18’s will no longer have to self-isolate, providing a negative result from a confirmation PCR test. Changes to [school testing and tracing](#) is also to be implemented.
- Venues and businesses will not be impacted by capacity issues, and those not previously permitted to open will now be able to (mainly nightclubs).
- There will be no legal requirement to wear face coverings indoors or on public transport, although people are encouraged to continue while cases continue to rise.
- The work from home guidance will be removed.
- An end to limits on attendance at weddings, funerals, and commemorative life ceremonies.
- Table service rules in hospitality venues will be removed, and venue check-ins via QR codes using the NHS Covid-19 app will be encouraged but not legally enforced.
- Limits on named care home visitors will be lifted.
- Council powers to enforce restrictions will expire.
- Large-scale events will not legally require any sort of certification – testing or vaccinations – but have discretion to implement these and utilise the NHS Covid-19 app to show status’.
- Double vaccinated people will not have to quarantine or self-isolate [when travelling back from a country on the amber list](#), although pre-travel testing remains.

June's headlines & links
(from the meeting of Executive Board onwards)

18 June	All adults aged 18 years and over can now get a vaccine.
19 June	Over 6 million patients have downloaded the NHS App . The App displays individual vaccination status'. The takeaway service Deliveroo will now notify customers if surge testing is deployed in their area.
20 June	Civil weddings and partnership ceremonies can now take place outdoors in England and Wales for the first time, in an effort to give greater choice to couples and boost the sector.
21 June	Leading social media platforms including Snapchat, Reddit, TikTok and Youtube will now be encouraging users to get a vaccine . Surge testing deployed in Leeds .
22 June	More than 60,000 fans are now permitted to attend the Euro 2020 semi-finals. The government announced the extension of the Local Support Grant through to the end of September with a further £160 million funding.
23 June	Surge testing to be deployed in Wakefield . 3 in 5 adults have received both doses of a vaccine. This followed a statement made by the Vaccine Deployment Minister , who gave an overview of vaccine uptake, the links between vaccines, hospitalisations and deaths, and targeting areas with lower uptake.
24 June	Research shows 2 million people may have had long Covid .
25 June	Government publishes Events Research Programme report .
26 June	Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP appointed Secretary of State for Health and Social Care , following the resignation of Matt Hancock MP.
28 June	New analysis suggests vaccines have prevented 7.2 million infections and 27,000 deaths. 19 July remains target date for ending restrictions , announced to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.
30 June	The Government circulated results of the Oxford University-led Com-COV study, which found alternating doses of the Oxford-AZ and Pfizer vaccines generate a robust immune response. Plans to offer over 50's booster vaccinations from September as per JCVI interim advice .

1 July	<p>PHE published national vaccine surveillance reports including estimated number of infections, hospitalisations and deaths prevented. The update includes vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease in adults under 40, including for Moderna (one dose estimated at 72% effective) and Pfizer (one dose estimated at 61% effective).</p>
2 July	<p>2.4 million workers came off furlough between the end of February to the end of May. This comes as the scheme is due to end in September and as employers begin to pay more over the summer months.</p> <p>More than 600,000 positive case samples have now been genomically sequenced.</p>
3 July	<p>Celebrities, including David Walliams, Jim Broadbent, Russel Tovey, Nicola Roberts and Asa Butterfield, come together to encourage people to get a vaccine.</p>
4 July	<p>Local areas all across the nation celebrate Thank You Day. It was also marked by the UK Government, and MHCLG Secretary.</p> <p>Piece published by the Health Secretary, which notes that Covid cannot be fully eliminated from our lives. Also noted are the health arguments for easing restriction, and that infection rates are likely to rise but the links to hospitalisations and deaths have weakened due to vaccines.</p>
5 July	<p>The George Cross awarded to the NHS by Her Majesty the Queen, which comes in recognition of 73 years of dedicated service, including the courageous efforts of healthcare workers battling Covid.</p> <p>The PM hosted a press conference laying out plans for the final Step 4 of the Roadmap in England. Full implications can be found in the main cover report. Key documents include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 Response: Summer 2021 (Roadmap) - HM Government Social Distancing Review: Report (publishing.service.gov.uk) - HM Government Covid-Status Certification Review: Report (publishing.service.gov.uk) - Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
6 July	<p>New Health and Care Bill introduced, with proposals to build a modern health and care system that delivers better care for communities, helping the NHS to build back better from the pandemic.</p> <p>Final data reveals £80 billion of Government support to businesses.</p> <p>New self-isolation rules come into effect from 16 August. Full details can be found in the main cover report.</p> <p>Changes to testing in schools announced; bubble collapsing will no longer take place, and tracing will be led by NHS test and trace (previously the education setting led this work).</p> <p>£226 million funding announced for bus operators.</p> <p>MHCLG Secretary gave a speech at the Local Government Association annual conference praising council's response to pandemic, and focused on future regeneration and building back better. The Heath Secretary also spoke.</p>
7 July	<p>Research supports the use of asymptomatic testing.</p>

- 8 July** [Latest REACT-1 study published](#): findings include infections rates quadrupling since the last study, but vaccines continue to offer significant protection.
- Double vaccinated people will not have to quarantine or self-isolate [when travelling back from a country on the amber list](#), although pre-travel testing remains.
- Department of Health and Social Care are researching the use of [new transparent face masks](#).
- 9 July** [Confirmed variants identified in the UK](#); Delta variant is attributing for approximately 99% of cases that are sequenced.
- £10 million set aside for programmes [targeted at disadvantaged pupils](#) starting primary and secondary school, who will take part in focused English and maths catch-up sessions.
- Vaccines [highly effective in clinical risks groups](#).
- 12 July** The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care [confirmed Step 4 will go ahead](#) (statement to the House of Commons. This was followed by a [national statement made by the Prime Minister](#).
- 13 July** [PHE priorities in 2021 identified](#), mainly providing support to the UK Health Security Agency which will lead in protecting public health.
- [UK's first 'megalab' opens in Royal Leamington Spa](#) – one of the centrepieces of UK's future test and trace infrastructure.
- 14 July** More than 35 million have now [received both doses of a vaccine](#).
- [Travel traffic light](#) list updated.
- 15 July** Almost 100% of people have antibodies [after a second dose](#).