

DCMS Museums and Galleries Sector Coronavirus bulletin

4 April 2022

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

NEW [Government sets out next steps for living with COVID: 29/03](#)

NEW [Covid 19 update: written ministerial statement: 29/03](#)

NEW [New guidance sets out how to live safely with COVID-19: 01/04](#)

- New guidance outlines free COVID-19 tests will continue to be available to help protect specific groups now that free testing for the general public has ended.
- Plans in place to enable rapid testing response should a new health threat emerge, such as a new variant of concern emerge.
- The government has removed the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification in domestic settings and no longer recommends certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass.
- The government has removed the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their risk assessments.
- The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme has now closed. The last date for submitting or amending a claim was 24 March 2022.

NEW [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19: 01/04](#)

- Guidance for living safely with respiratory infections, including coronavirus (COVID-19).

NEW [Reducing the spread of respiratory infections, inc. COVID-19, in the workplace: 01/04](#)

- Public health principles for reducing the spread of respiratory infections in the workplace.

[VAT reduced rate for hospitality, holiday accommodation, attractions: updated 03/03/21](#)

- The reduced VAT rate of 12.5% for hospitality and attractions, and for food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants and cafés ended on 31 March 2022.

[VisitBritain “We’re good to go” industry standard](#)

- Scheme ended on 31 March.

2. 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: Alert level 0 guidance: updated 30/03](#)
- [Scotland: guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions: updated 23/12](#)

Sector resources:

- [AIM and Museum Development reopening checklist: updated 22/12](#)
- [EMBED Reopening Recommendations Guidance](#)

Arts Council guidance

[Cultural objects licences: temporary export licences procedure: updated 18/11](#)

[Government Indemnity Scheme: courier arrangements/ventilation: updated 11/03/21](#)

[All COVID-19 travel restrictions removed in the UK: 14/03](#)

[Travel abroad from England during coronavirus: updated 18/03](#)

[Travel to England from another country during coronavirus: updated 18/03](#)

[Coronavirus testing before you travel to England: updated 18/03](#)

[Approved vaccines and countries with approved proof of vaccination: updated 18/03](#)

- All remaining international travel restrictions have been removed. You do not need to take any COVID-19 travel tests or fill in a UK passenger locator form, whether vaccinated or not.

Further information and guidance

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance: updated 04/04](#)

[COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19: updated 23/02](#)

[Volunteering guidance: updated 07/03](#)

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

[Covid pass: updated 01/04](#)

[Covid testing guidance for employers: updated 26/02/21](#)

[We Offer Testing to our Staff \(WOTTOS\): endorsement scheme: updated 17/05](#)

In [Wales](#), [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) different rules apply.

3. Job Support

[Check a previous Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme claim: updated 02/12](#)

[Make a late Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme claim: 29/10](#)

4. Funding**ACE Culture Recovery Fund**

[Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Strand 1: Emergency Resource Support: updated 04/02](#)

[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 23/12](#)

[ACE National Lottery Project Grants open for applications](#)

[£48 million to safeguard nation's critical cultural heritage: 12/03](#)

[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](#)
- [Cultural Development Fund: Round 2: 24/05](#)

[More than 370 museums and galleries eligible for DCMS/Wolfson Fund: 17/03](#)

- DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund launch new round of funding.

Northern Ireland

- [Northern Ireland Arts Council funding](#)

<p>Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland: Targeted funds for culture and events: 03/01 • Creative Scotland Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development
<p>Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Council Wales coronavirus funding • £15.4 million to help support Wales' Arts and Culture sectors: 12/01
<p>Museums Association covid support scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants of £500 to individual MA members whose finances have been affected by covid.
<p>5. Business support</p>
<p>£1 billion in support for businesses most impacted by Omicron across the UK: 21/12 COVID-19 economic support package: 21/12 Businesses to benefit from over £700m government funding to local authorities: 07/01 Businesses urged to apply for £850m still available in COVID-19 support grants: 10/02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-off grants up to £6,000 per premises for hospitality and leisure businesses in England • Devolved administrations will receive around £150m of funding; around £80m for Scottish Government, £50m for Welsh Government and £25m for Northern Ireland Executive.
<p>Grants and loans for businesses</p> <p>Grant support</p> <p>Local Restrictions Support Grants and Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 30/12 Recovery Loan Scheme: updated 27/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance up to £10m per business. Government guarantees 80% of the finance to lender. • Open until 30 June 2022.
<p>Cultural Relief Rate Rises: Museums and Galleries Exhibition Tax reliefs: 27/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for the charity sector: updated 25/03</p>
<p>Live Events Reinsurance Scheme: updated 28/03 Government-backed insurance scheme to give boost to events industry: updated 06/08</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Events Reinsurance Scheme worth over £750m. The government acts as a 'reinsurer', with a guarantee to make sure insurers can offer products events companies need.
<p>Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus: videos and webinars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Information for individuals and businesses in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.
<p>6. Key information sources</p>
<p>Check regularly for updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronavirus (COVID-19): UK government response • NHS guidance twitter NHS England • Department of Health • FCO Travel advice