

THE RETURN OF FOOTBALL AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ROADMAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN

The Government has published a roadmap setting out four steps for the easing of national lockdown restrictions in England. The FA's guidance will continue to strictly follow all Government guidance, as we have throughout the pandemic. The FA's guidance will be updated at each step to provide participants with the information needed to facilitate the safe return of the game.

The Government has been clear that the easing of restrictions set out in the roadmap is subject to review and could change if we see another surge in hospitalisations, if a new variant of concern is found or if there are any issues with the roll-out of the vaccination programme. As such we cannot confirm with certainty what the next steps for the return of football will look like over the coming months. We can instead point to what is in the Government's roadmap as an indication for what this return could look like. This is summarised below:

| | | 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 |
| UPDATE | | Schools return, including play for school-age children as part of educational provision and wraparound care – following DfE guidance. | Outdoor grassroots football returns – following all FA guidance. No spectators. No changing rooms. No hospitality. | Indoor football for under 18s returns – subject to Government approval. Socially-distanced spectators permitted - in accordance with Government guidelines. Changing rooms can be used – following strict Covid-19 protocols. Outdoor food and drink allowed – following the rule of six or two households. | Organised indoor football returns – subject to Government approval. Socially distanced spectators permitted - in accordance with Government guidelines. Changing rooms can be used – following strict Covid-19 protocols. Indoor food and drink allowed – following the rule of six or two households. | No legal limits on gathering. Larger events allowed. |
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