

MDC Business Bulletin

Roadmap, reopening & recovery

10th April 2021

The rules are changing from Monday – but we are urging businesses and residents to stay alert to keep Mendip safe.



The virus is still with us and when we meet with more people, there are more opportunities for COVID to spread. It's more important than ever to stick to hands, face, space - and let the fresh air in.

With that said, here's what you can and can't do from Monday, April 12th: The Roadmap

Pubs

Pubs and restaurants are allowed to open and serve customers with **outdoor service only**. This means that pub gardens and outdoor dining for restaurants can reopen.

Everyone who visits will have to check in on the **NHS's Test and Trace app** and groups are **limited to six people** or two households.

Drinkers have been urged to **take cash to the pub with them**, as poor rural broadband and mobile signal means card machines cannot be used in many pub gardens and the new guidelines ban establishments from taking payments indoors.

There are no rules in place requiring pubs to serve a meal alongside alcohol, and there will be **no curfew**.

Shops, zoos, hairdressers

All non-essential shops can reopen. This includes department stores, book shops, technology stores, clothing and homeware stores, auction houses and vehicle showrooms.

Retail shoppers will be urged to **shop alone or within household groups**.

Retailers will be allowed to **stay open until 10pm** to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines.

New guidance issued by the Government also means that **clothes shoppers will be able to use fitting rooms again** after more than a year. Stores are being advised to deploy a staff member to control entry to changing areas, allow only one person at a time into a cubicle and to leave a gap of "several minutes" between customers.

Hairdressers and nail salons, which fall under personal care services, will be allowed to reopen on Monday. However, they have been told to avoid lengthy treatments in order to reduce time spent in the chair by the customer.

Outdoor hospitality venues like zoos and theme parks can also open from this date.

Domestic travel

From Monday, **staycations will be allowed**, but in a limited form.

One household will be permitted to stay overnight somewhere in the UK, but not with an additional household.

Self-contained accommodation will be available to rent from April 12th onwards, which will include Airbnbs, cottages and campsites.

Hotels and B&Bs will remain closed.

Gyms

Gyms will be able to open on Monday, but gym-goers **cannot attend with people outside of their own household**, because indoor socialising will still be barred until May 17th.

Indoor exercise classes will also be banned when gyms reopen, in an attempt to reduce contact between people as they work out. The **saunas and steam rooms** in gyms will remain **closed**.

As well as gyms, indoor swimming pools and other indoor exercise venues will reopen.

Special ceremonies

Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies are permitted to take place, as well as receptions. The limit on the maximum number of attendees **will rise from six to 15**. There will be no change for funerals, to which 30 attendees are already allowed.

Remember:

- Don't meet indoors with people you don't live with or aren't already in a childcare bubble or support bubble with.
- The rule of six is still in place - up to six people who don't live together will be able to meet outside. Two households can also meet outside. Stay a safe distance from those not in your household.
- Keep sticking to hands, face, space and let fresh air in.
- You should continue to work from home wherever possible.
- Testing is still essential. Ask for a test if you've got symptoms - a new continuous cough, a temperature or a loss of or change to your sense of taste or smell - and get into the habit of regular asymptomatic testing.
- International holidays still aren't allowed.

To find out more, visit [SPRING ROADMAP](#) and also [Further easing of Covid restrictions confirmed for 12 April](#)

Reopening safely

NHS Test and Trace app means *everyone* will now have to check in

Changes to the NHS Test and Trace app mean that everyone in a group must check in when they arrive at venues and shops, either by scanning an NHS QR code poster on the app or by providing their contact details.

The updates to the app have come into effect to coincide with the availability of rapid lateral flow tests for everyone in England on Friday 9th April and ahead of the reopening of hospitality and retail from Monday.

Posters and link to QR codes and details surrounding the new rules on these including: [NHS QR code venue posters: privacy notice](#)

Visit: www.mendip.gov.uk/reopenhighstreetbusiness

Regular rapid coronavirus tests if you do not have symptoms

Rapid testing will now be offered to everyone. The public is encouraged to take regular tests, twice a week, to help prevent outbreaks.

You can get these regular rapid tests even if you do not have symptoms of coronavirus.

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still infect others.

Getting tested regularly is the only way to know if you have the virus. If people test positive and self-isolate, it helps stop the virus spreading.

Rapid testing will help everyone to return to a normal way of life again.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

COVID wardens help businesses re-open safely

With the gradual easing of lockdown rules, COVID wardens will be on hand across the area to help businesses re-open in a safe manner for shoppers, their staff and customers.

You can help protect Mendip by:

- Queuing responsibly
- Not blocking doorways
- Wearing a face covering inside shops (unless you are exempt)
- Being kind to others
- [Downloading and using the NHS COVID-19 app](#) to check in to venues

Press release: www.mendip.gov.uk/article/9929/How-Covid-wardens-are-helping-businesses-get-ready-to-re-open-safely

Leisure facilities in Mendip set to reopen!

Fusion Lifestyle is delighted to announce, in line with the government roadmap, the following:

- Indoor leisure facilities will reopen from 12th April at Frome Leisure Centre, Strode Swimming and Fitness and Wells Sport & Fitness.
- From 12th April, Tor Sports and Leisure Centre will reopen all activities except swimming.
- Shepton Mallet Lido is planning to re-open in May.

Outdoor group exercise classes have already been taking place at Frome Leisure Centre and Wells Sport & Fitness - and these will continue until indoor fitness classes are permitted from 17th May.

All centres will be open daily, but please refer to the individual centre's websites for opening hours. Bookings can be made up to seven days in advance, via download of the Fusion Lifestyle app or visit www.fusion-lifestyle.com to register and use the booking facility.

Visit: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/9944/Return-to-Fitness->

Mendip Markets: extended hours and non-essential provisions are back

Mendip Markets welcome back their loyal customers, with opening hours re-set to 9am until 2pm. Why not take a trip out and support our traders? A Mendip Market is the perfect place to put a spring in your step!

Residents can shop in the fresh air with confidence, and in safety, at these outdoor venues. Follow market news: [@mendip_markets](#) on Twitter and [@mendip.markets](#) on Instagram or visit our website <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/markets>

Planning to re-open your retail premises?

- **A reminder about Legionnaires' disease**

Shops, cafés, and other services that have been closed for months. Please remember to carry out vital safety checks to avoid increasing the risk of the disease, as the chances of bacteria forming in the water system becomes more likely when such systems remain unused for long periods of time. The Chartered Institute for Environmental Health (CIEH) has published guidance for businesses.

You can find it here: www.cieh.org/media/4208/legionella-guidance-covid-19.pdf

- **Keep your business COVID secure**

Make sure you're up to date with the latest covid security regulations for your business to help protect yourself, your staff and customers. The regulations can change and be updated to reflect the current coronavirus situation so check them regularly and make sure you're complying.

Visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19

- **The Growth Hub toolkit** to obtain the relevant template risk assessments to review and action suitable measures. Access to the template risk assessments are via the link below:

<https://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BBFA-Covid-19-Toolkit-v1-final.pdf>

Heart of the SW Growth Hub Covid-19 **Support for Business** at <https://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/covid-19-guidance-for-business/>

- **HSE Working Safely** during Coronavirus outbreak guidance <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/working-safely-during-coronavirus-outbreak.htm>
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- **Some final food for thought...**
<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/8776/COVID-19-Guidance-for-Food-Businesses>
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The Recovery – let's get Mendip moving again

Mendip business support and grants

Anyone seeking help should visit www.mendip.gov.uk/businessgrants for the latest grants and funding available. Our pages are regularly updated.

Restart Grant Update:

The Restart Grant scheme supports registered business-rate paying premises that are predominantly reliant on delivering in-person services for the general public through non-essential retail businesses, or businesses in the hospitality, leisure, accommodation, personal care (e.g. hairdressers), and gym/sports sector. A [summary](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/businessgrants) of eligible premises is available at www.mendip.gov.uk/businessgrants

Please note, previous eligibility for an SBRR, RHLG or LRSB grant does not guarantee eligibility under the new Restart Grants.

Businesses who have previously received a Local Restrictions Support Grant should have received an email in the last few days from noreplygrants@mendip.gov.uk with a link to apply. This short form gathers new information required by Government from 1 April for enhanced fraud checks. As email addresses sometimes change or contain typos on forms submitted, if you haven't yet received the email, please contact economy@mendip.gov.uk. We will need your rates account number, your full name and the trading name and address of the business, as well as your mobile/tel number.

We plan to start paying the grant as soon as the new national mandatory fraud checks are completed for each business.

If you believe you may be eligible for a Restart Grant, but have not applied for a grant previously or since September 2020, an alternative application process will be posted shortly at www.mendip.gov.uk/businessgrants

ARG Round 3

Round 3 of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is now open to businesses ineligible to claim the Restart Grant (e.g. non-business rate payers), until midnight, 15th April. If your business has been severely impacted by the government restrictions, please check eligibility and apply. Further funding rounds based on new Government guidance for ARG will follow shortly after 15th April.

Visit: www.mendip.gov.uk/businessgrants

Recovery Loan Scheme

A new government-backed loan scheme provides additional finance to those businesses that need it. The scheme will provide businesses with loans from £25,000 up to a maximum of £10 million. The government will provide an 80% guarantee for all loans and interest rates will be capped. The scheme, which runs until 31 December 2021, will be administered by the British Business Bank, with loans available through accredited commercial lenders.

Find out more [HERE](#).

A reminder about scams – always be alert

Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cybercrime.

Visit: www.actionfraud.police.uk/contact-us

Free and confidential support

Samaritans: 116 123 call for free, they are waiting

Mind in Somerset: 01823 276 892 open 24/7 www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM): 0800 58 58 58

Somerset Coronavirus Helpline: 0300 790 6275

Businesses and residents – contact the helpline if you should need any assistance during the coming weeks.

MDC Bulletins are compiled and issued by Mendip's Marketing and Media Team.

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