



Updated Information Note regarding restrictions under the Government's COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead

A number of restrictions were eased in May and June, following public health advice, with an emphasis on outdoor activity and a moderate increase in social contact. At its meeting of 29 June 2021 the Government decided on the following approach taking into account the prevalence of the Delta variant. The following measures will apply in July:

From 5th July

- The increase in the numbers permitted at outdoor events can proceed as planned, increasing to a maximum of 200 attendees for the majority of stadia, and to 500 for stadia/venues with capacity greater than 5,000, with appropriate protective measures.
- All indoor measures indicated for 5th July will not yet proceed, pending the implementation of a system to verify vaccination or immunity. Government will devise an implementation plan by the 19th July, following further consideration and consultation with relevant sectors.
- Weddings already planned will be permitted to proceed on the basis of the expected changes, with 50 guests permitted to attend wedding receptions with protective measures.
- There will be no limit on the numbers of people that can visit together once they are all fully protected by vaccination or have had COVID-19 infection in the previous nine months. The advice for household visiting remains unchanged for those who are not fully protected by vaccination.
- Everyone should continue to work from home unless absolutely necessary to attend in person

Pilot Live Events

In preparation for easing of restrictions, a small number of selected sport and cultural pilot live events took place throughout June, with more planned for July, to examine the logistical arrangements and to protective measures to inform guidance for venues due to re-open. This included:

- Larger outdoor events (in respect of larger purpose build event facilities).
- Indoor events (of varying scale and types of activity).

A list of events that were held in June can be found by following the below link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/97957-sport-and-cultural-pilot-live-events-taking-place-in-june/>

Travel

Public health advice currently remains to avoid non-essential international travel. Subject to epidemiological developments, as and from 19 July, Ireland will fully operate EU Digital Covid-19 Certificates for travel within the EU.

This note contains the following:

- Section 1: Overview of Restrictions**
- Section 2: Measures introduced to support our Sectors**
- Section 3: Guidance Available**

Section1. Overview of Public Health Measures and Exemptions

The following table sets out the conditions in more detail.

ACTIVITY	July	Details
Organised Indoor Gatherings	Will not proceed as planned, pending the implementation of a system to verify vaccination or immunity.	Government will devise an implementation plan by 19 July
Organised Outdoor Gatherings	From 5 th July numbers for organised events can increase to 200 or 500 for stadia or venues with a capacity of over 5,000	
Weddings Regardless of venue	From the 5 th July 50 guests can attend a wedding reception (Excluding couple and staff).	Weddings already planned will be permitted to proceed.
Funeral	Up to 50 mourners	
Exercise & Sporting Events	No indoor exercise or dance classes.	
Matches and Events	Numbers permitted at organised outdoor events (training ,sports events/matches) can increase to the levels permitted under Level 2 of the Framework for Restrictive Measures	
Gyms, Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools	Gyms, swimming pool, leisure centres remain open for individual training.	
Museums, Galleries and other Cultural Attractions	Cinemas & Theatres remain open with a maximum attendance of 50	
Bars, Cafés, Restaurants (including Hotel Bars and Restaurants)	Outdoor services in restaurants and bars remains open. Indoor services will not yet proceed, pending the implementation of a system to verify vaccination or immunity.	Government will devise an implementation plan by 19 July, following further consideration and consultation with relevant sectors.

Nightclubs, Discos and Casinos	Closed.
Hotels, Guesthouses, B&Bs etc.	Reopened from the 2nd June. Services must be restricted to guests/residents
Work	<p>Work from home unless essential to attend in person.</p> <p><i>(For professional artists including for example visual artists or theatre performers, the change in regulations means that individuals may again attend their workplaces to develop work, but only where it is absolutely necessary to attend in person. All workplaces must adhere to the Government's Work Safely Protocol and other public health guidance and should have robust infection prevention control arrangements in place. This relates only to professional artists and not to amateur artists or those engaged in art for social or recreational purposes.)</i></p>

Section 2. Measures introduced to support our Sectors

The Minister, recognising the challenges presented by the public health measures to the sectors under the aegis of her Department, has provided for a range of supports and measures across her sectors. This press release provides a useful summary:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/50a8c-reopening-plans-afoot-for-sectors-hardest-hit-as-minister-martin-reflects-on-first-year-in-office/>

Some of the **key measures introduced** to date to help support the tourism, arts, culture and sports sectors include:

Tourism

- A €26m Adaptation Fund for the tourism sector;
- A €17m Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme ([Press Release](#));
- Outdoor Service Enhancement Scheme will aim to assist eligible bars to enhance their outdoor service offering ([info](#))
- A €10m grant for coach tourism;

- A €10m Ireland Based Inbound Agents Business Continuity Scheme
<https://www.failteireland.ie/Business-Continuity-Scheme.aspx>)
- €8m Restart Grant Plus for B&Bs;
- A €55m Tourism Business Continuity Scheme (<https://www.failteireland.ie/Utility/News-Library/next-stage-launched-Business-Continuity-Scheme.aspx>).
- €73m to develop four new world-class tourist attractions ([info](#))
- €19m to develop state-of-the-art facilities for outdoor water-based activities ([info](#))

Culture and Arts

- Increased Arts Council funding to €130m
- €5m to support key cultural organisations, arts and cultural infrastructure and digital cultural content;
- €300,000 to the National Gallery of Ireland for COVID-19 related enhancements;
- Bursaries for Gaeltacht artists to a total value of €280,000 ([Press Release](#));
- Music Industry Stimulus Package €1.7m, announced on 23 October ([Press Release](#)), and has funded 184 musicians/bands to date ([Press Release](#));
- Live Performance Support Pilot Scheme €5m – 58 successful applicants ([Press Release](#));
- Decade of Centenaries Local Authority funding €900,000 ([Press Release](#));
- IMMA €600,000 & Crawford Art Gallery €400,000 ([Press Release](#));
- Funding of €230,000 for the expansion of Minding Creative Minds service to the entire Irish creative sector, both home and abroad. ([Press Release](#));
- Live Performance Support Scheme €25m-237 successful applications ([Press Release](#))
- €14m new support scheme for live entertainment businesses;
- €5m to local authorities for outdoor live performances;
- €5m capital supports for live entertainment sector;
- €1m to St. Patrick's Festival.
- €1.5m in funding for the promotion of the Arts globally ([info](#))
- 422 artworks by 70 artists added to the National Collection through €1m ([info](#))
- Supports for young people after lockdown -Creative Youth Conference ([info](#))
- Increased funding for Screen Ireland to €30m to help overcome COVID crisis

Gaeltacht

- A €5m Company Stabilisation Support for Gaeltacht Companies: Sustaining Enterprise Equity Scheme. This scheme is run by Údarás na Gaeltachta in partnership with Enterprise Ireland to support Údarás client companies deal with the liquidity challenges posed by COVID-19 ([Press Release](#))
- A support package totalling over €4m for the Irish summer colleges sector ([Press Release](#))
- An additional allocation of €8m for Údarás na Gaeltachta under the July Stimulus package.
- €7.4m in COVID-19 supports approved by Údarás na Gaeltachta to assist Gaeltacht business.
- €3.4m for Údarás na Gaeltachta/Foras na Gaeilge for language planning ([info](#))
- Bursaries for Gaeltacht artists - €280k ([info](#))

Sport

In November, an unprecedented €85 million funding package was announced for the Irish sport sector, which has been significantly impacted by the various Covid-19 restrictions imposed since March 2020. In addition, as part of the July Stimulus, funding support was provided for operators of swimming pools in recognition of the particular challenges they faced. The breakdown of COVID-19 funding support allocated by Sport Ireland are set out in the table below. Full details are available on the Sport Ireland website www.sportireland.ie

Gaelic Games	€31m
Other Field Sports	€31m
National Governing Bodies of sport Resilience Fund	€4.63m
Sports Club Resilience Fund	€11.797m
NGB Restart and Renewal Fund	€5.875m (includes 495k disability sports)
Swimming Pool Support Fund	€3.2m
Dublin LSPs	€1m
Total	€88.5m

Broadcasting

- Waiver of broadcasting levy for independent radio sector for first half 2020, worth €1m to sector
- COVID-19-related round of Sound and Vision Scheme for commercial radio sector ([Press Release](#))
- Extra €6.9m for BAI Sound and Vision including for live music projects and independent radio
- Additional €2m in July Stimulus for Sound and Vision
- Additional TG4 funding €1.9m ([Press Release](#))
- Additional €4.9m targeted at local radio and programmes that support live music sector ([Press Release](#))

Plus – Universal supports

Given the decision to defer the lifting of certain public health restrictions, and the associated risk of pandemic-related losses of employment among people who have just returned to work in anticipation of businesses re-opening next week, the planned closure of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment to new entrants will be deferred to midnight on 7th July 2021 rather than on midnight on 30th June 2021 as previously agreed.

The COVID-19 Restrictions Support Scheme also continues to support businesses across our sectors. This support scheme is in addition to the PUP and EWSS, and is targeted at businesses that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, i.e. that have had to close temporarily or to operate at a significantly reduced level.

Section 3 Guidance available to support activity/reopening

There is a broad range of sectoral guidance available relevant to the current level of restrictions set out in the following table:

SECTOR	GUIDANCE AVAILABLE
SPORT	<p>Updated guidelines for reopening sportsgrounds. The guidelines provide for a suite of mitigation measures to allow for the safe return of spectators to sporting events: https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/70663-minister-jack-chambers-publishes-updated-guidelines-for-safe-return-of-spectators-to-sports-events/</p> <p>Sport Ireland has prepared a broad range of guidance to support NGBs and sporting organisations. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Older People, Children/Youth– People with Disabilities– Outdoors– Competition– Training– Individual indoor training <p>https://www.sportireland.ie/covid19</p> <p>Ireland Active has developed guidance in respect of commercial gyms and leisure centres https://irelandactive.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Framework-for-Safe-Operation_Ireland-Active_v4.0- jan2021.pdf</p>
TOURISM	<p>Fáilte Ireland has prepared a range of sector specific guidance for hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, bars etc. https://covid19.failteireland.ie/</p>

**ARTS
CULTURE**

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The Arts Council has developed guidance on children and young people's arts and cultural activities.

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/covid-19/government-guidelines/>

The Arts Council and Fáilte Ireland have come together in partnership to develop guidelines for : Safe Presentation of Festivals and Live Events

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/covid-19/government-guidelines/>

Dance Ireland have guidance on Professional Dance Safety

<https://www.danceireland.ie/about/news/professional-dance-safety-guidance/>

Theatre Forum have developed guidance on Reopening Arts Centres

<https://www.theatreforum.ie/forum-notice/reopening-arts-centres-guidelines/>

National Culture Institutions have visitor guidance available on their websites

Screen Ireland have developed COVID-19 Production Guidelines for Irish Film and Television

<https://www.screenproducersireland.com/news/return-production-guidelines%C2%A0-creative-screen-industry>