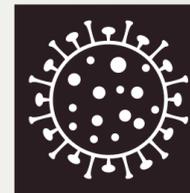


# Staying the Course for Phased Reopening from 18th May



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
National  
Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard for everyone – and tragic for many. We have suffered loss of loved ones – and loss of contact with family and friends. By working together, lives have been saved. The situation would be so much worse were it not for the huge effort made by everyone. For all that you have done, for your patience and sacrifice, resilience and solidarity – **Thank you.**

As we move through this crisis, there are now six key things that you should know:

- From Tuesday, 5th May, the 2km restriction on movement is extended to 5km and there is new advice on physical exercise for the over 70s.
- From the 18th May we expect to begin the re-opening of our country on a carefully managed, phased basis.
- We now have a phased flexible roadmap for re-opening businesses, retail, transport, education, sporting, social and cultural activities, and a return to social activity over the coming months.
- We also have a plan for easing restrictions on social visits, allowing families and friends to meet each other.
- We have a clear way for deciding when we can move from one phase of re-opening to the next, and the priority is always to minimise the number of people who will get the infection, and the number of deaths as a result
- The social distancing, two-metre rule will remain in place – even as we re-open. Don't forget handwashing, good cough and sneeze etiquette and social distancing are the most important things we can do.

## Advice for those cocooning if going for a short walk:

- Keep at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people while outside.
- Avoid physical contact with people.
- Don't touch surfaces with your hands.
- Clean your hands when you get home.
- If you are living in a residential facility talk to your carer about what is safe for you.
- If you are worried speak to your GP.

## Phasing Overview

**1** (Commencing 18th May)

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

### Community Health



5km travel limit. Avoid unnecessary journeys. Small groups meet outdoors.

5km to 20km. Avoid unnecessary journeys. Retail hours and visits for cocooners. Short home visits in small groups. Easing of funeral restrictions.

5km to 20km. Avoid unnecessary journeys.

Travel beyond home area. Short but slightly larger home visits. Small social gatherings (e.g. small weddings, baptisms).

Travel beyond home area. Some larger social gatherings (e.g. weddings).

### Education & Childcare



Childcare for essential healthcare workers. Opening of schools and colleges for teachers.

Childcare for essential healthcare workers. Opening of schools and colleges for teachers.

Phased opening of crèches and pre-schools for children of essential workers.

Phased opening of crèches, childminders and pre-schools for all.

Schools, 3rd level and adult education centres opening on a phased basis for 2020/21 academic year.

### Economic Activity & Work



Phased return of outdoor workers. Remote working continues for all that can do so.

Limited return to onsite working subject to compliance capability. Remote working continues for all that can do so.

Return to low-interaction work. Remote working continues for all that can do so.

Return to work where employees cannot remote work. Staggered hours. Remote working continues for all that can do so.

Phased return to work across all sectors. Remote working continues for all that can do so.

### Retail, Services & Commercial Activity



Retail that is mainly outdoor + home-ware, opticians, motor, bicycle & repair, office products, electrical, IT, phone sales & repair open. All subject to social distancing.

Small retail outlets with control of numbers open. Marts open. All subject to social distancing.

Open non-essential retail outlets with street level access.

Gradual easing of restrictions on higher-risk services. e.g. Barbers and hairdressers

Further easing of restrictions higher-risk services. e.g. shopping centres, tattoo, piercing.

### Cultural & Social



Open outdoor public amenities, incl. pitches, tennis courts and golf courses. tourism sites, beaches and walks. Outdoor sporting and fitness activities, in groups max. four people, resume. All subject to social distancing.

Open public libraries. Small group team sports training (not matches) resume. All subject to social distancing.

Open playgrounds. / Behind closed doors sporting activities. Open cafés and restaurants providing on-premises food & beverages—all subject to social distancing and strict cleaning protocols

Museums, galleries and places of worship re-open. Sports and team leagues (e.g. Soccer & GAA) and swimming pools. All subject to social distancing.

Pubs, bars, nightclubs, theatres, cinemas and casinos. Close physical contact sports. Open gyms, exercise, dance studios and other indoor and outdoor festivals, events and mass gatherings.

### Transport & Travel



Social distancing and hygiene measures continue for public and private transport as passengers increase. Specific measures at ports and airports.

Numbers restricted and monitored. Social distancing and hygiene measures continue for public and private transport as passengers increase. Specific measures at ports and airports.

Travel restrictions on numbers travelling to and in major urban centres. Social distancing and hygiene measures continue for public and private transport as passengers increase. Specific measures at ports and airports.

Gradually decrease restrictions in major urban centres. Hotels etc. on a limited occupancy basis re-open. Bars remain closed. Social distancing and hygiene measures continue. Specific measures at ports and airports.

Resume tourist travel to offshore islands. Social distancing and hygiene measures continue for public and private transport as passengers increase. Specific measures at ports and airports.

Criteria for progressing from one phase to the next are:



Progress of disease



Testing and contact tracing



Secondary morbidity and mortality



Healthcare capacity/resilience



Shielding at-risk groups

The details of this phased re-opening of our country are now available on [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie). Please stay the course, and please continue to save lives by staying apart.

Supported by the Government of Ireland.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
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