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## Covid-19 Member Update

Tuesday 26 May

### Summary

A turbulent weekend for the Government ended with the announcement that non-essential retail will be permitted to open on 15 June, with outdoor markets and car showrooms opening from 1 June. Shops will have to ensure they are abiding by social distancing by confirming they are abiding by newly published [guidelines](#).

Elsewhere there has been further media coverage of the physical activity sector's plans to reopen, as well as new announcements on the high street and the reopening of schools.

Below, please find a summary of the weekend's major announcements and events, as well as the steps ukactive is taking to support the physical activity sector.

### Prime Minister announces non-essential retail will reopen

Following the unprecedented press conference delivered by his chief aide Dominic Cummings, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced measures to ease the lockdown for retail. From 1 June, outdoor markets and car showrooms will be permitted to reopen, with non-essential retail open from 15 June. All newly reopened shops and showrooms will be subject to newly published [guidance](#) on social distancing – with the same restrictions which currently apply to essential retail.

### Financial support for high street reopening

In order to support the move to reopen the high street, the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund will give councils [£50 million](#) to introduce safety measures to allow staff to return to work and customers to shop safely. This will include funding for new signs, barriers and street markings to allow businesses to open safely from 15 June.

### Coverage of plan to reopen gyms

There has been coverage of what gyms will look like in the era of social distancing over the weekend, particularly by the [BBC](#) and in [The Telegraph](#). The stories point to research from Sport England showing going back to the gym is the British public's number one exercise



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priority after lockdown ends, and feature examples of gyms elsewhere in the world - such as Hong Kong and the USA - which have reopened.

The BBC Sport article features an interview with ukactive CEO Huw Edwards, in which he details the framework announced by ukactive to ensure gyms can reopen safely. Huw detailed the specifics around ukactive's framework for reopening which would allow people to safely use gym facilities, albeit at lower capacity. He also confirmed ukactive will publish a new research report later this week, including reopening modelling for the next six.

The ukactive [framework](#) for reopening can be found here.

### **Fitness key to fighting virus**

The *Daily Express* also features an [interview](#) with ukactive CEO Huw Edwards on the importance of opening gyms in order to combat Covid-19. With exercise key to building the immune system and resilience against illness, Huw said it was crucially important the physical activity sector was able to open in order to protect against a second wave of the virus.

Huw also called on the Government to lead the way in putting mental and physical wellbeing at the heart of policy, with the physical activity sector crucial in improving the health of the nation.

### **Downing Street press conferences**

A bank holiday weekend saw four press conferences, and while the focus for many follow-up questions remained on the actions of Boris Johnson's key advisor Dominic Cummings there were announcements elsewhere. The briefings were delivered by Home Secretary Priti Patel (Friday), Transport Secretary Grant Shapps (Saturday) and Prime Minister Boris Johnson (Sunday and Monday). Key announcements included:

- Ms Patel confirmed new arrivals in the UK would have to quarantine themselves for 14 days from 8 June, with exemptions for seasonal and key workers and those arriving from Ireland.
- Mr Shapps announced a series of transport infrastructure improvements including for the A66.
- Mr Johnson confirmed plans to reopen schools on 1 June were on track. There would also be a facility to offer face-to-face time for all students with exams next year from 15 June. The updated ukactive 'Code of Conduct for Children's Activity Providers working with schools during coronavirus' has now been issued with a Department for Education position statement.



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## **Expected announcements**

Parliament is in recess this week, ahead of returning to meeting physically next week. However, Prime Minister Boris Johnson will be appearing before the Commons Liaison Committee tomorrow to be interrogated by MPs.

## **ukactive engagement with Government**

ukactive is in constant dialogue with multiple government departments on additional support available for our members. This includes continued engagement with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and discussions with the Department for Education on continued support for children's activity providers, accompanied by a letter to Secretary of State for Education Gavin Williamson. Discussions with Treasury over its latest announcements continue.

ukactive has also stepped up engagement with devolved Governments on the role of physical activity on the health of the nation and the need to reopen the sector as soon as safe.

All insights gained from this engagement will be fed back to members through the daily briefing. Please contact a member of the ukactive team if you have any specific questions: [publicaffairs@ukactive.org.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@ukactive.org.uk).

You can find all the latest information on what Covid-19 means for the sector, as well as guidance and support for your organisation in our ukactive [Covid-19 hub](#).