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Covid-19 Member Update

Monday 1 June

Summary

The easing of lockdown continues today as some children return to school, garden centres and car showrooms begin to reopen, and groups of up to six people can meet outside. There are still concerns in some corners that the infection rate remains too high, and that we could shortly see a rise in cases – forcing a second lockdown.

Elsewhere, further details of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employed Support Scheme were revealed, which are set out below.

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.

Chancellor unveils next stage of furlough scheme

Chancellor Rishi Sunak revealed the details of the next stage of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employed Support Scheme on Friday, which will run up to October. On the former, he confirmed employer contributions will begin on 1 September (rather than August as previously thought), when taxpayer contribution will drop to 70% of worker's wages. Employers will contribute the remaining 10%, then 20% from 1 October.

There will also be an option for part-time furloughing, with employees able to come in part-time on full pay, with the Government furlough scheme covering them for the remaining days. This will require the closing of the previous scheme at the end of June, with all new entrants to the scheme requiring registration by 10 June.

The Self-Employed Support Scheme will also extend, with an additional grant of 70% of average pay up to a maximum of £6,750 available in the final iteration of the scheme.

ukactive's statement on the scheme can be found [here](#).



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#BeActiveHour launches across Europe

Across Europe, people came together for an hour on Saturday 30 May to get active, as part of an initiative between ukactive and EuropeActive. The hour was joined by people all around Europe doing their hour of physical activity, alongside celebrities including National Fitness Day ambassador Bear Grylls, with BMF.

Timed to coincide with what would have been the Champions League Final, there will be further such initiatives to coincide with other major sporting events, culminating in National Fitness Day on 23 September. You can join in and re-watch the action with Bear Grylls from Saturday on our new National Fitness Day YouTube channel, [here](#).

ukactive calls for greater engagement with devolved Governments

ukactive has called for greater engagement with Governments across the UK as advice diverges among the different nations. Huw Edwards, ukactive's CEO, called for more collaboration following the publication of roadmaps out of lockdown, and potential confusion for members over diversion in policy.

The full statement can be read [here](#).

Restrictions on outdoor meetings lifted

As of 1 June, restrictions on the number of people allowed to meet in outdoor spaces have been relaxed, with up to six people from different households able to meet in both public spaces and private gardens. Individuals from different households will still have to maintain a two-metre distance, and there are strict guidelines around what is and isn't encouraged when meeting in private residences.

Full information can be found [here](#) along with a Q&A [document](#).

Schools reopen

Primary schools have today reopened for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils as part of the Government's push to get the country moving again. Schools will be adopting social distancing where possible, with reduced class sizes and other measures being implemented.



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Children's Commissioner for England Anne Longfield has [written](#) for *The Telegraph* on the possibility of introducing summer schools for the most vulnerable children, including activities alongside learning in order for them to catch-up on missed education.

Downing Street briefings

Following Rishi Sunak's briefing on Friday, the weekend's press conferences were fronted by Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden and Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick. Key announcements included:

- On Saturday, Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden announced the return of competitive sports behind closed doors, including the return of the Premier League from 17 June. A number of measures will be in place to combat the spread of the virus.
- Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick confirmed UK testing capacity was now over 200,000, a crucial increase to go along with the test and trace strategy.

Expected announcements

Parliament returns this week, with PMQs taking place as normal on Wednesday.

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. Further engagement with devolved Governments has also stepped up. 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.

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](#).