

ukactive draft guidance for facilities moving to Step 4 in England on the 19th July

Following the Prime Ministers Announcement that England will move to Step 4 on the 19th July, ukactive have pulled together some key areas for planning this change for your facilities.

While we are waiting for the formal guidance for the sector within Step 4, the below are the key considerations that we recommend that you review.

At step 4, while many of the legal restrictions that the Government has imposed through the pandemic will be lifted, cautious guidance will remain. Employers will still have a legal duty to manage risks to those affected by their business. **The way to do this is to carry out a health and safety risk assessment, including the risk of COVID-19**, and to take reasonable steps to mitigate the risks you identify. Failure to carry out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, and put in place control measures to manage the risk of COVID-19 in the workplace, may be considered a breach of health and safety law.

Working Safely guidance sets out a range of mitigations employers should consider including:

- cleaning surfaces that people touch regularly;
- identifying poorly-ventilated areas in the venue and taking steps to improve air flow;
- ensuring that staff and customers who are unwell do not attend the workplace or venue;
- communicating to staff and customers the measures you have put in place.

Face coverings

The requirement to wear face coverings in law will be lifted. However, the Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport. Gym, fitness facilities and Health Clubs are not defined as crowded areas under the Governmental guidance. Please be aware and supportive of staff and customers who would like to continue wearing face coverings. Consideration should also be given to the continued use of face coverings for staff if in close contact roles including first aid in line with Resuscitation Council UK guidance. There is also guidance for first responders if they may [provide immediate assistance to individuals with potential COVID-19 infection](#)

QR code/NHS Test and Trace

There will no longer be a legal requirement for business to display the COVID-19 QR code poster at the entrance to premises. However, businesses are encouraged to continue displaying QR codes for customers wishing to check in using the NHS COVID-19 app, operators may also wish to continue collecting customer contact details to support NHS Test and Trace.

Facility Capacity (inc classes)

All guidance on maximum capacity calculations, for example 100sqft for gyms, and social distancing requirements for activities such as group exercise has been removed. It is recommended that you conduct a risk assessment to calculate your facility capacity/s moving forward, following the building and fire safety regulations and have a system in place to make sure that you do not exceed this.

Equipment Spacing

Equipment no longer needs to be spaced 2m apart, please risk assess and check with manufacturers (if needed) for recommended space between equipment

Cleanliness

We would recommend maintaining the hygiene and cleaning regimes you have established during the pandemic, including: clean surfaces regularly (especially high touch points),

equipment cleaned in between use, provide hand sanitiser and encourage staff and customers to sanitise and wash their hands frequently – we continue to recommend that equipment is not shared unless cleaned in between use.

If you are cleaning after a known or suspected case of COVID-19, follow the measures set out in the [guidance for cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#).

Ventilation

The Government guidance states that you should identify poorly-ventilated areas in the venue and take steps to improve air flow, such as open doors, windows and air vents where possible. If using mechanical ventilation, ensuring that your systems are set to maximise fresh air and minimise air recirculation. A CO2 monitor could help you assess whether a space is poorly ventilated, and if you should switch on additional mechanical ventilation or open windows. Further details are available from the HSE - [Ventilation and air conditioning during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)

Testing

You should continue to inform staff and customers that if they feel unwell or have any symptoms to remain home.go/home and take a test.

You do not need to use the NHS COVID pass, however you may consider this if you are running events.

Communication

Make sure that you inform staff and customers how to visit your facility safely and they are kept up to date with any changes that may be made

Across all the restrictions please be mindful of both staff and customers as some people may not be as comfortable with the lifting of restrictions as other people.

Sport England have wider [FAQ's on sports and travel](#)