

A Wiltshire roadmap

Reopening services in Wiltshire in 2021

As lockdown is cautiously eased in 2021, you can use this roadmap as a guide to see when services will reopen in Wiltshire.

Step 1 ■ Step 2 ■ Step 3 ■ Step 4 ■



Updated: 12 March 2021

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#WiltshireTogether

What Wiltshire Council will do

Step 1

8 March:

Education

- We're supporting our schools and early years settings as all children and students return safely to face-to-face education in schools and colleges. Childcare and children's supervised activities, plus wraparound care before and after school, can also resume where necessary to enable parents to work.
- We will work with schools to develop COVID risk assessments to help keep staff and pupils safe on their return.
- We will support schools to rollout twice-weekly rapid testing for secondary and college pupils, plus regular testing for all teachers.
- Higher Education students at English universities on practical courses can also return.
- We'll coordinate safe school transport across the county.
- To allow pupils to travel safely on public transport, concessionary travel restrictions will be reapplied for pass holders, so they can no longer use their passes before 9.30am.
- We'll monitor the impact of safeguarding activity and the potential for increased referrals as children return to school.
- Our Public Health team will continue to lead and manage outbreak management across a range of settings to ensure viral transmission is kept as low as possible

Social contact

- You will be allowed to leave home for recreation and exercise outdoors with your household or support bubble, or with one person from outside your household.
- We'll guide care homes on safe visiting, as care home residents will be allowed one regular visitor.
- Election campaigning permitted, ahead of the elections on 6 May.
- Wiltshire Community Champions will continue to monitor our public places.

Business

- We'll promote temporary pavement licences for some hospitality businesses, so they can get a licence ahead of their potential outdoors reopening on 12 April.

29 March:

Social contact

- Outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will be allowed. All children will be able to access any outdoor childcare and supervised activities. Parent and child groups can also take place outdoors with a limit of 15 attendees.
- Our Public Health team will continue to offer the Wiltshire wide local Test and Trace service to keep people safe.
- At some point in March, to be confirmed, we will begin to offer a Community Collect rapid testing scheme, that will enable you to collect rapid tests and take them away to complete the tests at home.

Sport and fitness

- Outdoor sports facilities will be allowed to reopen, and you will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports. We will reopen outdoor courts and pitches at our leisure centres, and they will be available for booking under COVID-safe risk assessments.
- Our Get Wiltshire Walking team will look to resume group walking activities, subject to Sport England guidance.

Business

- We will continue to support Wiltshire businesses through the distribution of grants, advice and support, with grants available for Wiltshire businesses until September.

Travel

- The 'stay at home' rule will end but many restrictions will remain in place. Work from home if you can and minimise the number of journeys you make, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes.
- Both domestic and foreign holidays will not be allowed.

31 March:

End of shielding

- Shielding may end on this date, but the Government will confirm the advice and next steps nearer the time to keep Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people safe. We will remind people that shielding has ended but that they need to continue to follow social distancing guidelines.

What Wiltshire Council will do

Step 2

Not before 12 April:

Business

- As non-essential retail and personal care premises reopen today, we will continue to support Wiltshire businesses through the distribution of grants, advice and support. We will continue to support business grants for Wiltshire businesses until September.
- Wider social contact rules will apply in all these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.
- Our Public Health team will continue to lead and manage outbreak management across a range of settings to ensure viral transmission is kept as low as possible.
- Domestic holidays allowed in household groups.

Sport, culture and heritage

- Wiltshire Council-operated leisure centres, libraries and the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre will reopen with COVID-secure measures in place, as will most outdoor attractions.
- Leisure centres will be open for pre-bookings only, while swim schools and gymnastics schools can resume.

Events

- Our Registrations Service will lead funerals with up to 30 mourners and weddings with up to 15 guests.

15 April:

Vaccinations

- We will continue to encourage and support people to take their vaccination when asked. The Government aims to have offered all those aged over 50 and those with underlying health conditions (cohorts 5 to 9) to be vaccinated with their first dose by 15 April.

6 May:

Elections

- As local elections and Police and Crime Commissioner elections will take place in many areas across the country, including Wiltshire, we will manage and administer the Wiltshire Council elections; city, town and parish council elections; the Swindon and Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner election; and various Neighbourhood Plan referendums. All of these will be held in a COVID-secure way. Results in Wiltshire will be announced on Friday 7 May, Saturday 8 May, Sunday 9 May and Monday 10 May.

What Wiltshire Council will do

Step 3

Not before 17 May:

Social contact

- We will continue to promote the guidance on social contact, as by this date you will be allowed to decide on the appropriate level of risk for your circumstances. This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted – although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply. You should continue to keep your distance from anyone not in your household or support bubble.
- Indoor adult group sports and exercise classes will resume in Wiltshire Council leisure centres.

Business

- We will continue to guide Wiltshire businesses through the distribution of grants, advice and support. Grants will be available until September. Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen. In all sectors, COVID-secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits.
- Our Licensing and Public Health teams will guide indoor hospitality businesses, which will reopen. Venues will not have to serve a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks; nor will there be a curfew, but it will be table service only.
- We'll also support other indoor locations to open, such as cinemas and children's play areas, plus the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs

Events

- Our Registrations Service will offer weddings, receptions, wakes and funerals with up to 30 guests.

31 May

Eviction ban ends

- As the ban on evictions ends today, we will support any residents affected and will promote the ways they can get support from the council.

What Wiltshire Council will do

Step 4

Not before 21 June:

Social contact

- As we hope to be in position where all legal limits on social contact are removed, we will continue to guide you on the latest local advice.

Business

- As remaining premises, including nightclubs, will reopen and restrictions on large events and performances will ease, we will support the holding of events in Wiltshire where appropriate, and subject to the appropriate licences.
- We will continue to issue business grants for Wiltshire businesses until September.

31 July:

Vaccinations

- As the Government aims to have offered all those aged over 18 with their first vaccine dose, we will continue to support and encourage people to take their vaccination when asked.

30 September:

Business

- The furlough scheme ends for Wiltshire businesses, as do all business grants.
- We remain open to provide support to residents who are out of work through our Building Bridges programme.

Contact Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub



0300 003 4576



wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

Please note that these dates may change, depending on the situation at the time.

As set out by Government, the assessment will be based on four tests, and services will only begin to be reopened if:

- The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
- Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
- Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
- The Government's assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

As we move through each phase, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives. Please continue with 'hands, face, space', meet outdoors when you can and keep letting fresh air in. Get tested when you need to and take your vaccination when offered – keep playing your part.

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