

Dear colleague,

I'm taking some time off this week (and I hope you are planning to do the same over the summer months), so I've asked colleagues in the Comms Team to send you a quick update on my behalf.

The First Minister announced the outcome of the latest 3 week review at the end of last week and I wanted to ensure that you are all aware of the latest developments.

- From today (Monday 3 August) pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes will be able to re-open indoors.
- Restrictions on meeting outdoors will be relaxed to enable more people to meet outdoors, appropriately socially distanced.
- Premises licensed to carry out marriages and civil ceremonies will be able to re-open. Small, socially-distanced receptions will be allowed outdoors. Indoor receptions will not be allowed.
- Children under 11 do not have to maintain a 2m distance from each other or from adults. But it is very important that older children and young adults continue to maintain social distancing.

Then, if conditions allow:

From Monday 10 August, swimming pools, indoor fitness studios, gyms, spas and leisure centres and children's indoor play areas will be able to re-open.

The following week, there is consideration of whether changes to the rules can be made about people meeting indoors. This is one of the most difficult areas from a public health perspective because of the increased risk of transmission. The current rules on indoor gatherings will remain in place for the time being.

Finally, you would have all received an update from Lynne Donovan last week about travelling outside the UK and potential quarantine considerations. Again, I would urge anyone planning on travelling abroad to discuss with their manager beforehand to ensure that everyone is fully aware of the options available.

That's all for now!

Take care
Christina