**Gold Briefing – Regime Delivery from 12 April 2021.**

**Purpose**

As part of Step 2 of the community roadmap, from Monday 12 April the next set of restrictions will be eased in England and Wales.

In both England and Wales this includes the re-opening of non-essential retail and close contact services. In England, this also includes the re-opening of gyms and leisure centres, outdoor attractions and hospitality, self-contained accommodation, libraries and community centres and the re-opening of hairdressers and barbers (already open in Wales since 27 March).

This briefing is to update you on the implications of that change for prison regimes.

**Changes to Regime Delivery from 12 April**

The lifting of restrictions in the community from 12 April does mean that there are some changes to what can be delivered in a Stage 3 regime. Please note that establishments at Stage 4 should not be lifting regime restrictions until approval has been granted for a move to Stage 3 but may wish to note the following updates when planning for progression when the time is right. An updated guide has also been prepared to assist Prisons and other sites in developing local operating procedures for stage 3 regimes and activities. This is available at: <https://hmppsintranet.org.uk/ersd-guidance/2020/04/15/safe-operating-procedures-sop-using-ppe/>

Establishments are reminded to ensure that as well as maintaining all relevant COVID-19 controls, risk assessments and local plans should also fully consider any safety risks to individuals or groups as regimes start to open up with the opportunity for mixing in slightly larger groups with individuals who have not been in contact since the restricted regime has been in place. It is particularly important to ensure that any intelligence is reviewed with Safety, Security and Residential teams working together and sharing information, particularly on issues such as debt. Local recognised trade unions should be consulted on any proposed changes and this should be reflected in local engagement logs.

Establishments are asked to re-enforce the focus on wellbeing as regimes open up. All staff who interact with prisoners, particularly those facilitating key work sessions, should be reminded to focus on opportunities to facilitate conversations that support social distancing, testing and vaccinations as mechanisms to keep everyone safer as regimes begin to open up.

* ROTL - Open establishments at Stage 3 may consider other work and voluntary placement applications with effect from the 12th April 2021. Roadmap step 2 also expands RDR activity planning opportunities as restrictions in the community ease further. All activities must comply with community restrictions on travel and household mixing including social distancing rules in the country where the activity is taking place.  The EDM for ROTL is currently being reviewed and will include guidance for work and closed establishments in line with expected relaxations on restrictions in the community and more detailed guidance will be published in due course.
* Physical activity and PE –



All custodial establishments in England and Wales can currently follow the ‘Structured Physical Activity’ guidance (SPA) guidance at Stage 3. This means that structured physical activity sessions can take place. In England from 12th April indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will reopen in the community but only for use by people on their own or in household groups. Establishments in England can fully open weights rooms and fitness suites from April 12th with appropriate social distancing. This will apply to Establishment in Wales from 03 May in line with the community.

Further to this guidance and superseding the Physical Education EDM, all fitness equipment available within prisons can now be used for the activities within the SPA in line with social distancing (except use of weights that would require a spotter).

In England, organised outdoor sports can now take place in all custodial establishments subject to National Governing Body Guidance. A summary of the sports allowed in custody is attached below and Governors should ensure that this guidance is reflected in Local Operating Procedures and risk assessments.



In Wales, we are confirming with Welsh Government officials whether outdoor sports are included in the easing of other exercise restrictions on the 3rd May. An update on this will be sent shortly.

* Chaplaincy – As referred to in the Gold Briefing dated 29 March, Ramadan will commence on Tuesday 13th or Wednesday 14th April, depending on when the local Muslim Chaplain declares it. A Ramadan Day-to-Day booklet has been created and will be printed and disseminated to Muslim prisoners via the local chaplaincy lead and Catering departments have already made provisions for the distribution of meals. Establishments should also note that Sikhs will be celebrating Baisakhi on Wednesday 14th April. It is important that establishments work within local risk-assessments and operating procedures to determine their plans and ensure that there is equity in access to religious events.
* Barbering and Hairdressing – A revised barbering and hairdressing document (Version 1.1) has now been published to update guidance on the delivery of hairdressing and barbering at Stage 3, covering both on-wing and in barbershops/salons delivery. Stage 3 establishments in both England and Wales are now able to recommence hairdressing and barbering in line with the guidance which is published at: <https://hmppsintranet.org.uk/ersd-guidance/2020/04/15/safe-operating-procedures-sop-using-ppe/>
* Third sector and contracted partners– Establishments are reminded that as per National Restrictions Gold Briefing addendum of 15.01.21 we have not limited the access of third sector and contracted partners to HMPPS sites and are encouraged to continue partnership working to ensure delivery of services in COVID-19 safe manner that support the delivery of essential work notably wellbeing and safety activity at all Stages of the National Framework.
* Testing **-** The UK Government has announced that everyone in the community in England will be able to access home testing and 2 LFD (Lateral Flow Device) tests per week by either collecting via your local pharmacy/community/school testing sites or ordering the test kits on line (for those individuals who are unable to attend a collection site).

For staff within HMPPS; it is key that staff continue to obtain their test kits via their place of work if they are not working from home.  This will ensure individuals who do not have access to a workplace test kit issuing site to access the community provided kits.

All staff accessing community provided test kits are encouraged to inform their place of work if they are undertaking self-collect testing.   This will provide valuable data for the management of the regime and testing programme within the workplace. Participants must inform their workplace of any positive LFD results and all positive result LFD tests must be followed up with a confirmation PCR test. Individuals must isolate until the PCR results are known.

Prison staff are encouraged to complete the weekly smart survey return <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GX386N/>    This will enable prisons to monitor testing uptake as part of their testing programme regardless where they have obtained their test kits.

**All LFD test results** must be registered on <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and staff must use their establishments’ Unique Organisation Number (UON) which will allow data to be tracked to the individual prison.

**Please contact** **COVID19.RegimesOpsGuidance1@justice.gov.uk** **with any queries or questions.**