



**COVID-19 Riding
Guidelines (including group
riding and first responder
incident management)
April 2021**



With



The NMC and Partners

This guidance has been prepared by the National Motorcyclists Council (NMC) in partnership with the organisations involved with the former Coalition of Motorcycling Organisations (CoMO).

This is version 6 of the guidance which was first issued by CoMO in summer 2020. It reflects the evolving situation in England and Scotland and will be updated with information from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, plus any changes to England regulations, as the legal situation becomes clearer. As such, this guidance should be considered a 'live' document and updates will be advised via the NMC website and social media. (www.uknmc.org)

Following further changes to COVID regulations, we have updated our guidelines in preparation for the release from lockdown rules. Despite the mass vaccination programme being successful so far, even as the rules are relaxed it will still be necessary to use the general government guidelines of '*Hands, Face and Space*' to reduce the threat of a further wave of infection.

The main areas to remember to prevent transmission are when gathering for a ride, arriving at your destination or in case of any incident along the way where good intentions may override the safeguards provided by social distancing and hygiene measures .

Our key message is to observe any social distancing requirements and limit transmission of the virus. Ride only when you are legally permitted and have regard to the restricted travel guidance issued by Government. Riding motorcycles for a valid reason such as to a place of work (when you cannot work from home) or to do essential shopping, to attend education and training or to deliver care is inherently more COVID secure than car-sharing or using public transport. As the restrictions reduce, riding in groups and for leisure will become more prevalent but it is still incumbent on us all to ensure we do not court negative publicity by rushing each stage. Equally, we should endeavour to court positive publicity by riding in a responsible and considerate manner that contributes to the efforts to tackle covid and highlights the advantages of motorcycling relative to other forms of transport in the covid context.

The following charts have some key dates for England and Scotland. The list is not exhaustive, and the dates may be subject to change dependent on infection rates moving forward.

ENGLAND – Issue date 01/03/21 (note all dates subject to change)

COVID-19 Proposed Roadmap: Advice for Motorcyclists

DATES (not before)	29 th March 2021	12 th April 2021	17 th May 2021	21 st June 2021
Motorcycle activity	Rule of 6 applies – stay local avoid unreasonably excessive journeys	Rule of 6 applies – stay local avoid unreasonably excessive journeys	Rule of 6 indoors. Group of up to 30 permitted outdoors – Excessive travel advice removed.	YES – subject to whatever guidance is suggested .
Travel	Avoid excessive travel advice remains You can leave home for exercise and recreation.	Avoid excessive travel advice remains You can leave home for exercise and recreation. DVSA testing restarts.	Excessive travel restriction advice removed Domestic travel only. No international travel before this date (subject to review)	All restrictions lifted.
Rules on mixing	Up to 6 adults from 2 households allowed to meet for social and recreational purposes as well as exercise	Rule of 6 or 2 households mixing in outdoor settings only. No indoor mixing of households.	Rule of 6 or 2 households in indoor settings (under constant review) 30 person meeting limit but outdoors only.	All restrictions lifted.
Overnight Stays and Retail	Non-essential retail remains closed. Hotels remain closed to all but essential customers	All retail open. Hotels remain closed. Overnight stays permitted in domestic premises (household only)	No overnight stays restriction lifted. Hotels and all retail now open.	All retail open.
General guidelines	Social distancing and hygiene advice still in place. Hands Face - Space	Social distancing and hygiene advice still in place. Hands Face – Space. Overnight stays in domestic settings (household only)	Covid secure guidance remains in place. Hands Face Space. Overnight stays possible in hotels	All restrictions on gatherings removed

Government guidance can be found here – [COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/covid-19/spring-2021-response)

Scotland – Issue date 14/04/21 (note all dates subject to change)

COVID-19 Proposed Roadmap: Advice for Motorcyclists

DATES (not before)	16th April 2021	26 th APRIL 2021 return to protection levels (poss travel to UK)	17 th MAY 2021	JUNE 2021
Motorcycle activity	Rule of 6 applies – (up to 6 people from 6 households) Travel permitted within Scotland	Level 3 and below subject to protection level guidance. Level 4 stay in your local authority area unless travelling for a permitted reason	Level 3 and below subject to protection level guidance. Level 4 stay in your local authority area unless travelling for a permitted reason	Level 3 and below subject to protection level guidance. Level 4 stay in your local authority area unless travelling for a permitted reason
Travel	Stay local guidance lifted to include all of Scotland You can travel for exercise and recreation, but no overnight stays	You can travel for exercise and recreation and tourist accommodation is open DVSA instruction & testing restarts.	You can travel for exercise and recreation and tourist accommodation is No international travel before this date (subject to review)	Subject to protection level guidance. Refer to Scottish Government advice.
Advice on mixing	Outdoors only No indoor mixing of households.	Subject to protection level guidance. Refer to Scottish Government advice.	Subject to protection level guidance. Refer to Scottish Government advice.	Subject to protection level guidance. Refer to Scottish Government advice.
Overnight Stays and Retail	Non-essential opens to click and collect Hotels remain closed.	Tourist accommodation and all retail open, level 3 and below. Outdoor hospitality opens level 3 and below local licensing laws apply.	Tourist accommodation and all retail open, level 3 and below. Outdoor hospitality opens level 3 and below local licensing laws apply.	Subject to protection level guidance. Refer to Scottish Government advice.
General guidelines	Social distancing and hygiene advice still in place. Hands Face - Space	Social distancing and hygiene advice still in place. Hands Face – Space.	Covid secure guidance remains in place. Hands Face Space.	Aiming for all restrictions on gatherings removed

Wales - Has removed the stay local advice, and travel into and out of Wales is now permissible from the common travel area. Restrictions remain on group gatherings with 6 people from 2 households being the maximum permissible.

Northern Ireland - Has replaced their stay at home order with stay local advice. Driving lessons resume on 23rd April. Up to 10 people from 2 households may meet in a private garden and this will rise to 15 from 3 on 30th April.

Take care at all points in your journey being careful not to interact unsafely with others who are not part of your household, support bubble, including any group of six.

Follow the practical advice below, which may need be adjusted to meet the restrictions as they change.

The National Motorcyclists Council consists of representatives from IAM RoadSmart, The Trail Rider Fellowship British Motorcyclist Federation, the Auto Cycle Union and the Motorcycle Action Group – the guidance is also endorsed by the National Police Chiefs Council and other motorcycle groups.

COVID-19 Riders' Safety Code

The NMC and its partners outline key points for the current circumstances below:

- The Government and devolved administrations are slowly reducing the lockdown restrictions and allowing more general meetings in an outdoor setting, with 'the rule of 6' coming into force in England on 29th March and 16th April in Scotland. (Six people may meet in an outdoor setting or the sum of two households)
- The initial relaxing of the lockdown rules allows for a reasonable degree of motorcycling for leisure rides, so the advice is still to stay local where possible. It is also the case that social distancing needs to be maintained and it is important to remember that this precaution and the size of are crucial in limiting virus spread.
- Organised outdoor sporting events will be allowed to return.
- You can also use your bike if you need to travel a short distance within your area to take open air recreation locally, for example, to go for a leisure motorcycle ride, to access open spaces such as parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, forests, public gardens or the grounds of a heritage site.
- If you do decide to ride your bike for such reasons, make sure you follow the relevant practical advice and guidance published below.
- The term 'open air recreation' is not defined in the regulations and could be argued as encompassing motorcycling for leisure on public roads. The advice in the guidance is to stay local this can be taken as good advice but not law, so we advocate the exercise of good judgement in this area, with due regard for likely adverse publicity for motorcycling.
- Therefore, we urge that riders use common sense and recognise what is both reasonable and sensible given the current circumstances when making personal choices about when and where to ride until the restrictions are fully removed

- All of us who ride are in effect ambassadors for motorcycling. In summary, although the law appears to permit riding as open air recreation, the perception of the public at large should also be considered when travelling any distance.
- The ongoing message is to 'stay local where possible', until the guidance changes, the indicative date for this in England being 17th May (if the previous relaxation measures are successful). In Scotland, travel within Scotland is acceptable from April 16th, although on 26th April a return to the previous 0 to 4 protection levels may restrict travel in and out of level 3 and 4 areas. It is anticipated that travel to Scotland will be permissible from the common travel area as of 26th April.

If you do need to travel, official advice is that you should avoid travelling outside of your village, town or the part of a city where you live – and look to reduce the number of journeys you make overall. If you are travelling or riding for open air recreation, refer to the relevant information in the links below. Make sure you understand the rules concerning travel that apply in your part of the UK. Try to think "what should I do?" not "what could I do?" The vaccination programme is progressing well and the most vulnerable groups have been immunised. This is a major step towards us being able to ride our bikes freely again.

The links below will give the latest advice, including updates to restrictions in England and for the devolved administrations.

England - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

Scotland - <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Wales- <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

Northern Ireland - <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>

If you have been in contact with a person who has coronavirus seek advice at NHS test and trace: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

The following guidelines have been prepared by the National Motorcyclists Council and endorsed by The National Police Chiefs' Council, IAM RoadSmart, the British Motorcyclists Federation, the Vintage Motor Cycle Club, the Motorcycle Action Group, the Trail Riders Fellowship, Auto-Cycle Union, the Triumph Owners Motor Cycle Club and Biker Down and are offered as practical advice for their members:

You will need to consider the following points: -

- Plan your route carefully to be as short as possible while also avoiding busy locations, traffic congestion and crowds.
- You must only ride with a pillion or sidecar passenger if they are part of your household or

social bubble.

- If you are to riding for a permitted purpose you must ride in a group of no more than six unless as part of an organised sporting event. The chance of transmission of the virus while riding on the highway is very low, but you must ensure that when you start and stop you remain socially distanced from anyone who is not in your household or support bubble. Under Government and devolved administration legislation any gathering exceeding permitted limits may be identified as unlawful and may also court unwelcome publicity.
- Aim to be as self-sufficient as possible, for example, by taking all food, refreshments, and other essentials with you.
- Agree in advance what you are going to do if you have problems. Agree, for example, how to deal safely with any breakdowns or emergencies. For Biker Down guidance for riders in attendance at accidents see Appendix 1
- Avoid stopping in places where other people are gathering (there will be time for that when the present crisis is over). If you do find yourself in any such setting, do not interact with others who are not part of your bubble.
- Establish in advance where there will be essential facilities on your route such as public conveniences and stay away from crowded spaces, where social distancing may be an issue.
- Limit the number of stops you make, and wherever possible stop in isolated places.
- Do not stop or park in public car parks where you cannot be sure of maintaining adequate social distancing.
- Know the COVID-19 safe procedures to follow at filling stations or shops. Limit the number of fuel or convenience stops you make.
- Decide what COVID-19 safety kit you are going to take with you, such as alcohol hand gel, masks, gloves, tissues, plastic bags, etc. Use it and dispose of it appropriately and safely.
- Always encourage other riders to be COVID-19 safe.
- Ride sensibly and with consideration for others.
- Be aware that some aspects of official guidelines for COVID-19 security may continue to be different in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and that restrictions may be imposed in certain areas at short notice to deal with localised infection outbreaks.

You must not go riding at all if you, a member of your household or someone you have been in close contact with, has tested positive for or shows symptoms of COVID-19 and you must therefore self-isolate. If you are an older rider or someone at higher risk because of a pre-existing condition, think very carefully about the precautions you must take, including whether to resume riding until the infection risk has been reduced sufficiently.

Don't let the present crisis stop you from riding your bike if you need to for a permitted reason but make sure you do so legally and safely, while always complying with Government guidelines.

Appendix 1

'Biker Down' Guidance for Riders in Attendance at Accidents during Covid-19 Crisis

1. On approach carry out Dynamic Risk Assessment (ORA) for hazards, secure area for casualty and responder's safety.
Where possible gain casualty history, information can also be gained from witnesses/carers/relatives, to include:
 - Causal History 5- Mechanism of Injury?
 - Diagnosis of Covid-19?
 - History of cough or fever,
 - History of respiratory distress prior to collapse/injury?
 - Have casualty been in contact with any C-19 casualties/or persons who have needed to self-isolate or, if they have themselves, been in isolation and if so the timescale since?

The above will help to share situational awareness with any attending Ambulance Crews and allow them to don appropriate PPE prior to patient contact.

CALL 999*

2. PPE should be worn where possible to include:
 - Face shield/mask (preferably fluid repellent)**
 - Eye protection/goggles
 - Nitrile Gloves, double glove (2 x pairs).
 - The above should be donned prior to making contact with the casualty and whilst at least 2 metres from them.
3. Conduct a primary Survey assess breathing by looking only- avoid putting your face in close proximity to the patients face, do not listen or feel for breathing in the usual manner. Expose chest to assess rise and fall visually.
4. If patient appears to be in cardiac arrest commence resuscitation dependant on available equipment
5. Undo helmet chin strap but leave helmet on with visor down, or improvised face covering (Buff, neck tube etc) to reduce aerolized particles from CPR
5. If and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is available, open and follow voice prompts, delivering shock if indicated and perform 'compression only' CPR as prompted.
7. If no AED available perform 'compression only' CPR - NO rescue breaths. All persons

present who are able to perform CPR should do so, in a cycle or approx. 2-minute intervals to maintain effective CPR.

8. Continue until Ambulance Clinician takes over, patient shows signs of life or you become exhausted. If patient is conscious and breathing but is suffering a trauma injury adopt same levels of PPE, undo chin strap and leave helmet in place if possible, or encourage casualty to cover lower half of face with neck tube, buff etc. avoid close proximity to face and where possible keep your own face away from respiratory area of casualty. Treat as per normal based on your level of training/knowledge.
9. Keep number of Responders dealing with casualty to absolute minimum, if only one person is needed to treat, ensure only one is treating! Others/witnesses and bystanders should remain at least 2 metres away.
10. On arrival of Ambulance and when relieved from chest compression duties or casualty care, withdraw at least 2 metres and remove PPE/outer clothing if necessary and sanitise hands.

*Call 999 - Timing of this event is not prescriptive or limited; it should be done as and when responder deems appropriate but the sooner the better!

**The use of surgical masks would be ideal, but it is unlikely you will have these so consider alternatives such as a neck tube, buff etc, the advantage here is you're probably already wearing one and so is your casualty.