



## Final Easing of Lockdown Rules in England Delayed

The final step in relaxing lockdown rules in England has been **delayed** for four weeks.

More people in England have been catching coronavirus recently. So, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that “it is sensible to wait just a little longer.”

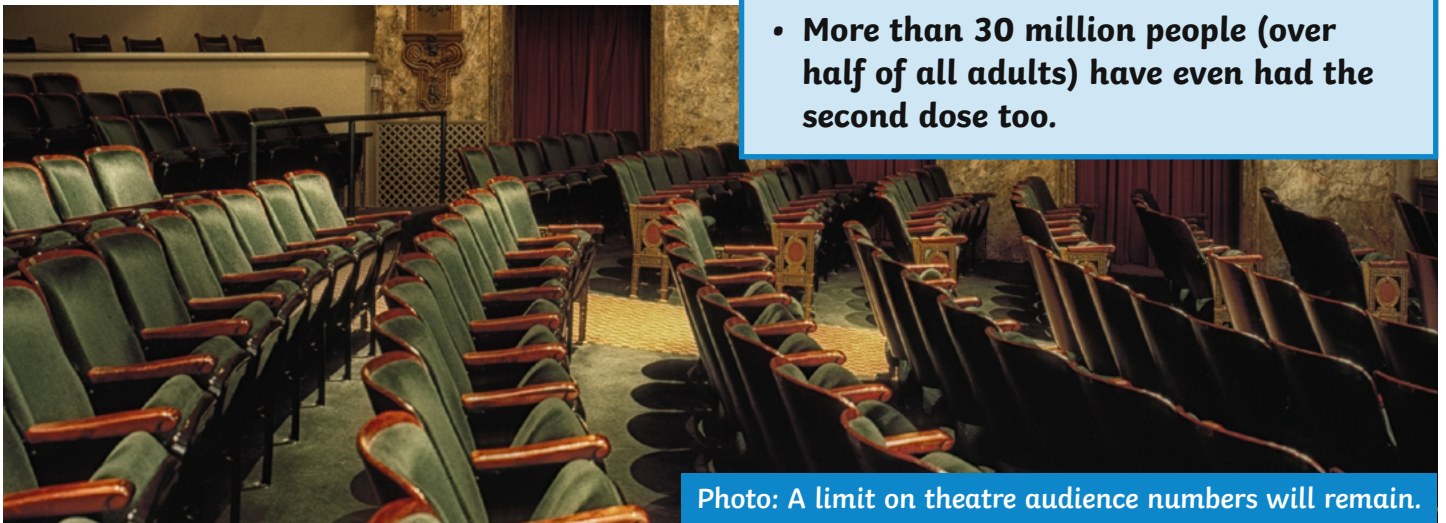


Photo: A limit on theatre audience numbers will remain.

The government has been following their four-step ‘**roadmap**’ out of lockdown. At each of the first three steps, more rules were lifted and more things went back to normal.

It was hoped that next Monday would be the beginning of step four. It would have meant everything in England opening back up again fully. Some people were calling it ‘freedom day’.

But, the prime minister has said it’ll have to wait until 19<sup>th</sup> July.

The delay means that rules on social distancing will continue. That means people still have to wear face coverings and limit indoor meetings to six people.

Cinemas, museums, and play areas all remain open. As do theme parks, libraries and theatres. But, there will still be limits on the numbers of people allowed in these places

at one time.

Boris Johnson did say there was the “possibility of **proceeding** to Step 4 and full opening sooner” if it was safe to do so.

So, fingers crossed people in England won’t have to wait much longer for ‘freedom day’.

### How is the UK COVID-19 vaccination programme going?

- In the UK, more than 40 million people (over three-quarters of all adults) have received at least one dose of a vaccine!
- More than 30 million people (over half of all adults) have even had the second dose too.

### Glossary

**delayed** Put off until later.

**roadmap** A plan for achieving something.

**proceeding** Moving onto; beginning.

### Reflect

How do you feel about there being a delay?



# Questions

1. The main idea of the article is... **(tick one)**

Step three of England's roadmap out of lockdown delayed.

'Freedom day' is going ahead on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Some lockdown restrictions staying in place for another four weeks.

All lockdown rules eased.

2. According to the article, how many people in the UK have been fully vaccinated with at least two doses?

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3. Look at this sentence: **So, fingers crossed people in England won't have to wait much longer for 'freedom day'**. Which of the following would be a suitable alternative for 'fingers crossed' as it is used in that sentence? **(tick one)**

put one finger across another

hopefully

wishing for bad luck

unfortunately

4. Why do you think the day that all restrictions are lifted has been called 'freedom day' by some people?

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