

4. Economic Activity (Work)

Phases	1	2	3	4	5
<p>Economic Activity (Work)</p> <p>(applying over and above currently permitted work arrangements)</p>	<p>Applying a risk-based approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit phased return of outdoor workers (e.g. construction workers, gardeners, including people working on allotments). Social distancing requirements continue to apply. Continue to maintain remote working for all workers / businesses that can do so. 	<p>Applying a risk-based approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit phased return of workers, such as solitary and other workers that, due to nature of work, can maintain 2m distance constantly. Social distancing requirements continue to apply. Continue to maintain remote working for all workers / businesses that can do so. <p>Organisations to develop plans for return to onsite working by employees in light of COVID-19 considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social distancing compliance Hygiene and cleaning Compliance in higher risk situations plans for medically vulnerable / pregnant etc extended opening hours to enable social distancing. <p>State to develop mechanism for supporting, advising on, assessing, regulating planning for return to onsite working by organisations.</p>	<p>Applying a risk-based approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations where employees have low levels of daily interaction with people and where social distancing can be maintained. Continue to maintain remote working for all workers / businesses that can do so. 	<p>Applying a risk-based return to onsite working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations where employees cannot remote work to be considered first for return to onsite working arrangements. Depending on business, shift work, staggered hours etc should be operated to increase % of workforce available for work in any 24-hour period, as long as they can limit the number of workers interacting with each other. Continue to maintain remote working for all workers / businesses that can do so. 	<p>Applying a risk-based return to onsite working applicable fairly across all sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phased “return to onsite working” arrangement ‘Higher risk’ organisations which by their nature cannot easily maintain social distancing implement plans for how they can eventually progress towards onsite return of full staff complement.

Public health rationale:

Public health risk is lower in workplaces where adequate arrangements are made to limit population density in order to facilitate social distancing and limit person to person contact and the time spent in contact.

The re-start of the economic activity should be phased in, thus ensuring that authorities and businesses can adequately adjust to increasing activities in safe way recognising the interdependency between public health and wellbeing and economic activity. There are several models (jobs suitable for teleworking, economic importance, shifts of workers etc.) but not all the population should go back to the workplace at the same time, with an initial focus on less endangered groups and sectors that are essential to facilitate economic activity (e.g. transport)⁹.

The effectiveness of containment and mitigation depends on limiting the number of social contacts, but also the duration of each contact¹⁰.

⁹ EU Commission – European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures 14 April 2020

¹⁰ OECD: Flattening the COVID-19 peak: Containment and mitigation policies, Updated 24 March 2020

5. Retail, Personal Services and Commercial Activities

Phases	1	2	3	4	5
<p>Commercial Activity (Retail)</p> <p>(applying over and above currently permitted retail arrangements)</p>	<p>Applying a risk-based approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open retail outlets that are primarily outdoor (e.g. garden centres, hardware stores, farmers markets) Open retail outlets that were open in Tier 2 (e.g. homeware, opticians, motor, bicycle & repair, office products, electrical, IT, phone sales & repair etc.) <p>Retailers to develop plan for safe operation and protection of staff and customers considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social distancing compliance Hygiene and cleaning Compliance in higher risk situations Extended opening hours to enable social distancing 	<p>Applying a risk-based approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small retail outlets with small number of staff on basis that the retailer can control number of individuals that staff and customers interact with at any one time Open marts where social distancing can be maintained 	<p>Applying a risk-based approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase in opening of all other non-essential retail outlets on basis of restriction on the number of staff and customers per square metre so that social distancing can be maintained. To be limited to retail outlets with street-level entrance and exit i.e. which are not in enclosed shopping centres due to higher risk. 	<p>Applying a risk-based approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence loosening restrictions on higher risk services involving direct physical contact for periods of time between people and for which there is a population-wide demand (e.g. hairdressers, barbers). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of enclosed shopping centres where social distancing can be maintained. Further loosening of restrictions on services involving direct physical contact for periods of time between people for which there is not a population-wide demand (e.g. tattoo, piercing) for later phases due to risk.

Public health rationale:

Ease restrictions in such a way as to protect the ability to maintain social distancing prerequisite for and between customers and staff, thereby limiting the transmission rate and protect the capacity of the health system to cope with the inevitable increase in disease.

Retail outlets that are small in size with low staff numbers may be well placed to limit and control the number of customers that their staff interacts with on a daily basis thus reducing risk.

There is a higher risk associated with the spread of the infection associated with person to person contact e.g. hairdressers, beauticians etc.

Control of the population density is more difficult in outlets which are designed for the congregation of people e.g. indoor shopping centres / malls thereby facilitating person to person transmission.

A review of the progression of the disease within and between each stage is required.

The effectiveness of containment and mitigation depends on limiting the number of social contacts, but also the duration of each contact.¹¹

Some measures could be lifted first where population density or individual density is lower or where access control is achievable (.....small stores versus shopping malls)¹².

Commercial activity (retail) with possible gradation (e.g. maximum number of people allowed, etc.)¹³.

¹¹ OECD: Flattening the COVID-19 peak: Containment and mitigation policies: Updated 24 March 2020

¹² WHO Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19: 16 April 2020

¹³ EU Commission – European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures: 14 April 2020