Timeline of UK coronavirus lockdowns, March 2020 to March 2021

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16 March
PM says "now is the time for everyone to stop non-essential contact and travel"

19 March
PM says the UK can "turn tide of coronavirus" in 12 weeks

23 March
PM announces the first lockdown in the UK, ordering people to "stay at home"

25 March
Coronavirus Act 2020 gets Royal Assent

26 March
Lockdown measures legally come into force

16 April
Lockdown extended for 'at least' three weeks. Government sets out five tests that must be met before restrictions are eased

30 April
PM says "we are past the peak" of the pandemic

10 May
PM announces a conditional plan for lifting lockdown, and says that people who cannot work from home should return to the workplace but avoid public transport

1 June
Phased re-opening of schools in England

15 June
Non-essential shops reopen in England

23 June
PM says UK's "national hibernation" coming to an end – announces relaxing of restrictions and 2m social distancing rule

29 June
Matt Hancock announces that the UK's first local lockdown would be applied in Leicester and parts of Leicestershire

4 July
UK's first local lockdown comes into force in Leicester and parts of Leicestershire.

More restrictions are eased in England, including reopening of pubs, restaurants, hairdressers.

18 July
Local authorities in England gain additional powers to enforce social distancing

3 August
Eat Out to Help Out scheme, offering a 50% discount on meals up to £10 per person, begins in the UK

14 August
Lockdown restrictions eased further, including reopening indoor theatres, bowling alleys and soft play

14 September
'Rule of six' – indoor and outdoor social gatherings above six banned in England

22 September
PM announces new restrictions in England, including a return to working from home and 10pm curfew for hospitality sector

30 September
PM says UK at a "critical moment" in the crisis and would "not hesitate" to impose further restrictions if needed needed

14 October
A new three-tier system of Covid-19 restrictions starts in England

31 October
PM announces a second lockdown in England to prevent a "medical and moral disaster" for the NHS

5 November
Second national lockdown comes into force in England

24 November
PM announces up to three households will be able to meet up during during a five-day Christmas period of 23 to 27 December

2 December
Second lockdown ends after four weeks and England returns to a stricter three-tier system of restrictions

15 December
PM says Christmas rules will still be relaxed but urges the public to keep celebrations "short" and "small"

19 December
PM announces tougher restrictions for London and South East England, with a new Tier 4: 'Stay at Home' alert level. Christmas mixing rules tightened.

21 December
Tier 4 restrictions come into force in London and South East England

26 December
More areas of England enter tier 4 restrictions

4 January
PM says children should return to school after the Christmas break, but warns restrictions in England will get tougher

6 January
England enters third national lockdown

15 February
Hotel quarantine for travellers arriving in England from 33 high-risk countries begins

22 February
PM expected to publish roadmap for lifting the lockdown

8 March
Planned return to school for primary and secondary school students in England

March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | 2021 January | February | March

Lockdown / restrictions introduced | Lockdown restrictions eased | PM / government announcements | Legislation / emergency powers

Source: Institute for Government analysis.

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