

Table 1: Proportion of days in month when on-trade was permitted to operate in England

Month	Proportion of days on-trade was open (%)
April 2019	100
May 2019	100
June 2019	100
July 2019	100
Aug 2019	100
Sept 2019	100
Oct 2019	100
Nov 2019	100
Dec 2019	100
Jan 2020	100
Feb 2020	100
March 2020	65 (20/31)
Apr 2020	0
May 2020	0
Jun 2020	0
July 2020	90 (28/31)
Aug 2020	100
Sept 2020	100
Oct 2020	42 (13/31)
Nov 2020	0
Dec 2020	0
Jan 2021	0
Feb 2021	0
March 2021	0
April 2021	0
May 2021	48 (15/31)
Jun 2021	100
July 2021	100
Aug 2021	100
Sept 2021	100
Oct 2021	100
Nov 2021	100
Dec 2021	100
Jan 2022	100
Feb 2022	100
Mar 2022	100

The proportions presented in Table 1 are based on the dates below:¹

21st March 2020 – In a press conference on 20th March, “[d]rinking establishments, including pubs, bars and nightclubs” as well as “[f]ood and drink venues for consumption on-site” were required to “close as soon as they reasonably can, and not to open for trade on Saturday 21 March” through the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closures) Regulations 2020 (Cabinet Office & Ministry of Housing 2020). Following this on 26th March, the Health

¹ These dates capture relevant changes to the operation of the on-trade as a broad category, but please be aware there were some interventions which affected only some kinds of sites (e.g., nightclubs) which are not covered here, as these would have affected only a limited pool of on-trade sites.

Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 come into force, described by Brown et al. as the "first lockdown law" (Brown et al. 2021 p. 26), which amongst other measures "[required] the closure of businesses selling food or drink for consumption on the premises" (HM Government 2020a p. 11).

4th July 2020 – The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2020 come into force (Brown et al. 2021), allowing pubs and bars to re-open (Proctor 2020). Some sites that hold on-trade licences are yet to be permitted to re-open (e.g., nightclubs) or to open for their everyday functions (e.g., theatres cannot hold performances but can open their bars) (Proctor 2020), but for the purposes of this work, the on-trade is considered in operation on this date.

Regional restrictions were in place in various sites across the country during this period (termed by many as 'local lockdowns' (Brown et al. 2021)). Some of these local lockdowns placed restrictions on the on-trade, including some closures (in Leicester, including "the closure of businesses...selling food or drink for consumption on the premises" (HM Government 2020b p. 40)) but these were judged to have had only minor effect of nationwide on-trade availability. Further, areas with local restrictions did not map neatly onto police force areas, meaning it was not possible to isolate the effects of closures here only. Given this, days during this period were considered 'open'.

14th October 2020 – the 'three tier' system comes into force (Brown et al. 2021). In areas of the country placed under "Local COVID Alert Level – Very High" (Prime Minister's Office 2020a), wet pubs must close:

Pubs and bars must close, and can only remain open where they operate as if they were a restaurant – which means serving substantial meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal. They may only serve alcohol as part of such a meal.
(Prime Minister's Office 2020a)

When these restrictions come into force, only the Liverpool city region is placed under the very high alert level, but other sites are added throughout the rest of October. By 17 October, London, Essex, and York were moved to the very high alert level (Department of Health and Social Care 2020c). Greater Manchester moves into the very high alert level on 24 October, along with South Yorkshire, while Warrington and Nottinghamshire move to this tier on the 27th and 30th of October respectively (Brown et al. 2021).

The proportion reported in Table 1 represents when this new tiered system was introduced, as the restrictions introduced regionally were judged to represent a significant change (decrease) in on-trade availability from the outset – an impact which only grew through the month as more areas moved into higher tiers.

5th November 2020 – The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 come into force (Brown et al. 2021), including requiring pubs, bars, and restaurants to "close except for takeaway and delivery services" (Prime Minister's Office 2020b). November is marked as having 0% days of on-trade operation; 1st – 4th November are considered as 'closed' in this analysis based on the same rationale described for the latter part of October.

2nd December 2020 – the lockdown is replaced by a revised tier system, through The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020, and on its introduction, "[only] Cornwall, the Isle of Scilly and the Isle of Wight are placed in tier one" (Brown et al. 2021 p. 37). Significant portions of the on-trade are required to close under all other tiers; in tier two, wet pubs and bars must shut, and in tier three, all hospitality must

close except for takeaway or delivery sales (Cabinet Office 2020). Between 2 December and 20 December, only Hertfordshire is moved down to tier one (on 19 December) and others move between tiers two and three (generally, moving up to the higher tier, including “London and much of the South East of England” on 16 December) (Brown et al. 2021 p. 38). On 20 December, a fourth tier comes into force (which applies in London as well as the South East and East of England) with restrictions “like those in place during the national lockdown in November” (Brown et al. 2021 p. 38). More areas enter this tier, while others are moved up from tier one (Cornwall, Isle of Wight, and Herefordshire) on 26 December (Department of Health and Social Care 2020b). On 31 December, only the Isle of Scilly remains in tier one (Department of Health and Social Care 2020a), and “most [of] the country is placed in tier four” (Brown et al. 2021 p. 39).

6th January 2021 – a new lockdown comes into force through amendment The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020 (Brown et al. 2021).

12th April 2021 – since their closure in January, “beer gardens and outdoor hospitality of all kinds” re-open for the first time (Prime Minister's Office 2021b).

17th May 2021 – indoor hospitality is permitted to re-open (Prime Minister's Office 2021a).

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