

South Downs Planetarium welcomes UK Government announcement that audiences can return to Theatres from 1st August

The UK Government announced that from 1st August Theatres can reopen their doors once again, albeit with some restrictions. The Planetarium welcomes this move and has been preparing the building for this moment for some time.

The Government guidance requires the following six conditions are in place in theatres to protect patrons. Adjacent, you will find the South Downs Planetarium's response to these requirements:

Government guidance requires	South Downs Planetarium's response
<i>Reduced venue capacity and limited ticket sales to ensure social distancing</i>	Seating capacity has been reduced from 96 to about 40. This number varies slightly to accommodate social groups - also known as 'social bubbles'
<i>Tickets will be purchased online and venues encouraged to use e-tickets to reduce contact and help with track and trace</i>	All tickets can now only be purchased on line though ticket tailor. Details of the person making the purchase are collected in the event of being required for NHS Test and Trace
<i>Venues to have clearly communicated social distancing marking in place in areas where queues form and adopt a limited entry approach.</i>	The Planetarium has 2 metre distancing markers throughout the building and entry is controlled to avoid congestion forming at the planetarium's entrance.
<i>Increase deep cleaning of auditoriums</i>	Professional cleaners are contracted to deep clean the building on a regular basis. The star dome and waiting areas are cleaned with a long acting anti-viral agent for additional protection
<i>Performances should be scheduled to allow sufficient time to undertake deep cleaning before the next audience arrives</i>	The Planetarium has reduced the frequency of public shows to only 3 times per week.
<i>Performers, conductors, musicians must observe social distancing wherever possible</i>	All Planetarium staff will observe the 2 metre social distance, and will be wearing face coverings.

The above Government guidance, published on 17 July 2020, can be found at www.gov.uk/government/news/audiences-back-in-theatre