



LRFBIZ V25– ECONOMIC RECOVERY VERSION

Lincolnshire Resilience Forum – Recovery Cell Comms Distribution

22 July 2020

Headline Updates

Face Coverings: LRF Message to retail businesses

As you will be aware from this Friday 24 July, face coverings will be mandatory in shops. Read full publication guidance [here](#).

The LRF want to reaffirm that the liability for wearing a face covering lies with the individual.

LRF suggested check list:

- Have you got enhanced clear signage at your entrance
- Do you need a dedicated member of staff managing your queue and checking customers have face coverings
- Will you have face coverings available for those who come unprepared? If so will you give these away, ask for a donation to charity or sell them?
- How will you manage those refusing to wear a face covering, if you have door staff this may be refusing entry. If you don't have door staff how will you approach a person not wearing a face covering whilst bearing in mind they may have an exemption. This may be effected by whether you have face coverings available for free/donation/sale
- At what point will you refuse entry or ask a customer to leave
- At what point will you consider contacting the police
- Do you need to document this or share this info via shoplink radio with other businesses
- Remember, whilst the police have some powers to issue fixed penalty notices for non-compliance, in practice the management of your shop will be your responsibility, and so to ensure the safety of your employees and customers we recommend you have a plan in place for how you will tackle non-compliance prior to contacting the police
- If customers become aggressive or threatening then you should call the police immediately.

Face coverings at work

Guidance on face covering, their role in reducing the transmission of coronavirus, the settings in which they are recommended, and how they should be safely used and stored is available [here](#). It is not compulsory for shop or supermarket staff to wear face coverings in England, although employers should consider recommending their use where appropriate and where other mitigations are not in place. There is no universal face coverings guidance for workplaces because of the variety of work environments in different industries. Employers should continue to follow [COVID-19 secure guidelines](#) to reduce the proximity and duration of contact between employees.

More Information on Face Coverings

[Transport and face coverings](#)

[How to wear a face covering](#)

[Health and Safety Executive Guidance](#)

Millions could be vaccinated against Covid-19 as UK secures strong portfolio of promising vaccines

The UK has secured early access to 90 million doses of promising coronavirus vaccine candidates.

- The UK Government has secured early access to 90 million vaccine doses from the BioNTech/Pfizer alliance and Valneva with more in the pipeline as part of its strategy to build a portfolio of promising new vaccines to protect the UK from Covid-19
- In addition, treatments containing Covid-19-neutralising antibodies have been secured from AstraZeneca to protect those who cannot receive vaccines
- UK public encouraged to sign up to a new NHS website to make it quicker and easier for potential volunteers to join vital studies that could help save lives – the aim is to get 500,000 people signed up by October

Full details can be found [here](#)

Business and Economy Updates

Chancellor launches Comprehensive Spending Review

The review has been launched by UK Government to be published in the Autumn and will cover budgets for the years 2021/22 to 2023/24 and capital budgets for the years 2021/22 until 2024/25, and devolved administrations' block grants for the same period to aid Covid-19 Recovery. Full details can be found [here](#)

The CSR will prioritise:

- Strengthening the UK's economic recovery from COVID-19 by prioritising jobs and skills
- Levelling up economic opportunity by investing in infrastructure, innovation and people, and maximising productivity
- Improving outcomes in public services, including supporting the NHS and taking steps to cut crime and ensure every young person receives a superb education
- Making the UK a scientific superpower, leading development in technologies to support ambitions to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050
- Strengthening the UK's place in the world
- Improving government delivery of commitments, ensuring that all departments have the appropriate structures and processes in place to deliver outcomes and commitments on time and within budget

UK Internal Market Consultation

The UK government is consulting on new measures to protect internal trade within the UK when powers return from the EU in January 2021. Measures will protect the UK's economy by preventing new burdens on cross-UK business and provide certainty to support coronavirus recovery. The proposals aim to ensure that devolution can continue to work for everyone; that all devolved policy areas stay devolved, while maintaining certainty for business by ensuring that rules and standards across the UK are mutually recognised, so that trade is as easy for business as possible. A 4-week consultation opened on 16 July, sourcing views from businesses across all 4 nations of the UK. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy are [consulting on the options](#) set out in the white paper. Please respond by close of play on 13 August. Find the paper [here](#).

Online Tailored Guidance for Businesses

The Government has produced an online tool that businesses can use to generate guidance on how to open and operate safely which is tailored to how their business operates. An online questionnaire asks for information on the business sector, the number of employees, visitors, suppliers and whether staff work on site to generate a comprehensive list of the actions that should be taken to ensure that a proper risk assessment is undertaken and that the business operates in a Covid safe manner. See [here](#).

Key date REMINDER for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

- CJRS claims for periods ending on or before 30 June 2020 need to be submitted by **31 July 2020**. This is the last date those claims can be made and claimants need to have previously made a claim on or before 31 July.
- From **1 August 2020** the scheme will no longer fund employers' National Insurance (NI) and pensions contributions for furloughed employees.
- From **1 September 2020** employers will have to start contributing to the wages of your furloughed employees. Grants will be for 70% of usual wages in September and 60% in October, but furloughed employees will continue to be entitled to receive at least 80% of their usual wages with businesses making up the difference.

Live webinars offering more support on changes to the scheme, are available to book online at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

Business events and conferences given go ahead to resume from 1 October

Government to begin pilots to help plan how best to restart indoor business events with new [guidance](#) outlining how the nation's conference venues can get back up and running safely. Provided levels of infection remain at current rates, this will see the return of the sector worth approximately £32.6 billion to the UK each year.

The National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses (FSB) resources

The FSB has shared [advice and other resources](#) to help small businesses amidst the pandemic. The FSB's page has been added to the roundup of coronavirus support for business from outside government shared on GOV.UK [here](#).

Government sets out draft agenda for a 21st century tax system

As part of the Treasury's long-term tax digitisation plan designed to boost national productivity, make it easier for businesses and people to pay tax and reduce avoidable errors and fraud, HMRC's Making Tax Digital programme will be gradually extended. From April 2022, the programme will be extended to all VAT registered businesses with turnover below the VAT threshold (£85,000), and from April 2023, it will apply to taxpayers who file income tax self-assessment tax returns for business or property income over £10,000 annually. Full details can be found [here](#)

Competition policy in response to coronavirus

IPPR has published a paper discussing how competition policy can contribute to a robust and sustainable post-crisis recovery. The [paper](#) explores the short and long term consequences of the coronavirus pandemic for markets and competition.

Education & Skills

Providing apprenticeships during COVID-19

Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessment organisations in response to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) is available containing updated information to confirm that from 13 July providers can welcome back 19+ apprentices into educational settings, flexibility to suspend level 2 functional skills for level 2 apprentices has been extended, and more information on support for redundant apprentices.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Government commits building stronger relationships with colleges

Proposals to strengthen relationships with colleges and promote better planning to make sure communities get the skills they need have been published by the Department for Education.

The Government response sets out a number of actions following the report's recommendations, including:

- Strengthened alignment between the Further Education Commissioner and ESFA

- A regular strategic dialogue led by the ESFA and Further Education Commissioner's team with all college boards around priorities, starting from September
- New whistle-blowing requirements for colleges, including publication of policies on college websites
- A review of governance guidance to strengthen transparency
- A new College Collaboration Fund round

Full details can be found [here](#)

Government scheme to help universities in financial difficulties

Universities facing severe financial difficulties as a result of Covid-19 will now be able to apply for further Government support. Gavin Williamson has announced details of a new restructuring regime, specifically for higher education providers, such as universities and colleges in England, that could be at risk of insolvency. The scheme aims to support the important role universities play in their local economies, and preserve the country's science base. Full details are available [here](#)

Sector Specific Updates

Hospitality and Arts

Minister visits Lincoln

Nigel Huddleston MP, the Minister for Tourism, visited Lincoln as part of his UK wide road trip to support the reopening of the sector on Friday 17th July. The Destination Management Organisation Visit Lincoln arranged his trip and invited tourism businesses to share their first-hand experiences about the impact of coronavirus.

The Minister was chaperoned by Charlotte Goy, CEO at Visit Lincoln, and was introduced to key business leaders during the visit. He was also joined by Lincoln MP Karl McCartney. [Read the full story here.](#)

ABTA Covid-19 insurance product

The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) has launched a new insurance product [ABTA Travel Sure](#) that will be available to agents and directly to consumers, and includes explicit coverage for Covid-related expenses while travelling.

Audiences back in theatres from 1 August

Pilots are underway ahead of opening up of indoor performance venues and audiences adhering to social distancing will be able to return to indoor theatres, music and performance venues from 1 August. The announcement marks a major step in getting the arts and cultural sectors fully back up and running, and follows the government's announcement of £1.57 billion of funding for the arts, culture and heritage sector earlier this month, the biggest ever one off investment in these industries. Full details can be found [here](#)

Planning update on cultural venues and holiday parks

[Questions and answers](#) are now available on the prevention of loss of cultural venues, and planning conditions for holiday parks.

Housing

New laws to deliver homes and revitalise town centres

New laws laid in Parliament will deliver much-needed new homes and revitalise town centres across England, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced. The new rules, which will come into effect by September, will mean full planning applications will not be required to demolish and rebuild unused buildings as homes and commercial and retail properties can be quickly repurposed to help revive our high streets and town centres.

This will help our high streets and town centres to provide more space for new businesses and help them to adapt quickly to what consumers and businesses need. Full details can be found [here](#)

Energy

£350 million committed to fuel green recovery

The Government has announced £350 million is being made available to cut emissions in heavy industry and drive economic recovery from Covid-19. Full details can be found [here](#)

- Around £350 million has been made available to cut emissions in heavy industry and drive economic recovery
- Funding will help drive decarbonisation of heavy industry, construction, space and transport – helping to meet goals of leading the most ambitious environmental programme worldwide
- Government launches first meeting of Jet Zero Council, tasked with making net-zero emissions possible for future flights

Webinars

Date	Topic	Booking Link
28/07/2020	Developing an international strategy in a post Covid-19 world	https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/events/event-details/?id=1113&navigatedFromSearch=true
29/07/2020	The fast changing landscape of eCommerce 2020; what it's taught us & why it makes sense to consider	https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/events/event-details/?id=1112&navigatedFromSearch=true
29/07/2020	Building-in resilience into your export strategy: Are you selling the right products or services?	https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/events/event-details/?id=1114&navigatedFromSearch=true
30/07/2020	Innovation Showcase: How Lincolnshire businesses have adapted during Covid-19	https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/events/event-details/?id=1103&navigatedFromSearch=true

Fixed Key Messaging

- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) or call 01522 782189 for continued support to your business
- View the Government Covid-secure guidance by sector [here](#)
- Click [here](#) if you can provide Covid-19 testing capacity.
- Feed business impacts into [Business Intelligence](#)

As we move from Response to Recovery, the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum has created a Recovery Comms Cell made up of county and district councils, NHS, and LEP/ Business Lincolnshire leads to ensure consistency of key messaging. This is not intended as a comprehensive list but to update on new and key messages relevant to economic recovery. Follow and tag @ [twitter LRF](#) [twitter LEP](#) [twitter Business Lincolnshire](#)

