

Lincolnshire's Resilience Forum



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

LRFBIZ V27– ECONOMIC RECOVERY VERSION

Lincolnshire Resilience Forum – Recovery Cell Comms Distribution

5th August 2020

Headline Updates

Maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace

By maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors, and sharing these with NHS Test and Trace where requested, you can help us to identify people who may have been exposed to coronavirus. Containing outbreaks early is crucial to reduce the spread of COVID-19, protect the NHS and social care sector, and save lives. This will help to avoid the reintroduction of lockdown measures and support the country to return to, and maintain, a more normal way of life.

You can play a significant role in helping your staff, customers and visitors understand the importance of NHS Test and Trace and play their part in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Please do this by explaining why you are asking for contact information and encouraging them to provide it.

Although this is voluntary, please encourage customers and visitors to share their details in order to support NHS Test and Trace and advise them that this information will only be used where necessary to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Managing Local Outbreaks

The Government has published Guidance on a five stage process by which local outbreaks will be managed in future. Full details can be found [here](#)

As an example of this approach, Oldham Council has introduced [local restrictions](#) in response to a local spike in cases.

Self-Isolation Period Extended

The self-isolation period has been extended from 7 to 10 days for individuals who have coronavirus symptoms, or a positive test result. Businesses should be made aware of this and factor it into their recovery strategies.

Businesses should also be aware of the knock-on effects of 'social bubbles': for example, if one employee tests positive and lives with, or is in a 'social bubble' with a colleague, that second employee will also need to self-isolate for 10 days. This could have a severe impact on staffing levels and workforce recovery.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Reopening of further businesses and venues in England postponed

The Prime Minister has announced that until 15 August at the earliest, casinos, bowling alleys, skating rinks and remaining close contact services must remain closed, and that indoor performances will not resume. Pilots of larger crowds in sports venues and conference centres will not take place and wedding receptions of up to 30 people will also not be permitted. Data on the prevalence of the virus in the community in England will continue to be carefully reviewed in order to move forward with the intention to open up these higher risk settings as soon as possible.

Full details can be found [here](#)

New Coronavirus Tests

Millions of new rapid coronavirus tests will be rolled out across NHS hospitals, care homes and labs from next week.

- Both tests will be able to detect COVID-19 and other winter viruses in just 90 minutes
- New tests will hugely increase testing capacity ahead of winter, delivering fast results that will help to break chains of transmission quickly

Full details can be found [here](#)

Guidance on Shielding

From Saturday 1 August, shielding guidance for the clinically extremely vulnerable will be paused across England.

This means those who have been shielding over the course of the pandemic will no longer be advised to do so, and can begin to go back to work and school as long as the sites are COVID-secure.

People will also be able to go outside as much as they like, and visit supermarkets, pubs and shops, with social distancing guidelines still strongly advised.

Full details can be found [here](#)

'Please give me space' social distancing cards or badges

Individuals are encouraged to use social distancing cards and badges. These signs show the carrier may have difficulties or concerns in maintaining social distancing. They can be used to signal to others around them that they need to pay attention and be given space.

Please follow this link to access ['Please give me space' social distancing cards or badges](#)

Business and Economy Updates

Recovery Grants

Two new leadership programmes to help small business leaders grow their companies in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic have been launched.

- Government investment in small business training, management and productivity
- £20 million commitment at critical time for small businesses dealing with the impact of coronavirus
- Interested small business leaders are encouraged to sign up

The [Small Business Leadership Programme](#) will focus on strengthening decision-makers' leadership skills. The programme will equip business leaders with the confidence and leadership skills to plan for the future and ensure that they are in a strong position to recover from the impacts of coronavirus.

Full details can be found [here](#)

See also: small and medium sized businesses in England can access grants between **£1,000 - £5,000** for new **equipment and technology**. Full details can be found [here](#)

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

More small businesses can now benefit from loans of up to £5 million under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS). Previously, businesses which were classed as 'undertakings in difficulty' were unable to access CBILS because of EU rules. Businesses in this category and which have fewer than 50 employees and a turnover of less than £9 million can apply now to CBILS.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Culture Recovery Fund

DCMS has announced further allocations from the £1.57bn Cultural Recovery Fund:

- A £500m Film and TV Production Restart Scheme, aimed at helping TV and film productions to get back up and running.
- An £88m Culture Recovery Fund for businesses in the Heritage sector. This is being managed by Historic England who will provide grants of **£10,000 to £1 million**, and **£1 million to £3 million** to help applicants that were financially sustainable before Covid-19.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Arts Council Grant Programme

This will provide grants of **£50,000 to £3m** to cultural organisations (both profit and not for profit) based in England (eligibility requirements apply). Cultural organisations include: theatres, music and comedy venues and museums. Local Authorities, Universities and other Public Sector bodies who run or maintain cultural services can also apply.

Full details can be found [here](#)

N.B: The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England will deliver £92 million worth of grants to protect heritage sites. The remaining £258 million will be reserved for a second round of funding later in the financial year to meet the developing needs of organisations.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Foundation Industries Grant Funding

UK-registered businesses can apply for a share of £8 million in grant funding for projects supporting the recovery and growth of foundation industries.

The Transforming Foundation Industries Challenge, part of the UK Government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund is investing £66 million in a partnership with UK businesses to develop sustainable technologies that reduce the environmental impact of the Foundation Industries (Cleantech for heavy industries). This is to ensure that these sectors remain internationally competitive and are ready to meet the government commitment of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation, has up to £8 million from the fund to invest in innovative research and development projects that address resource or energy efficiency of foundation industries.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Redundancy Payments for Furloughed Employees

BEIS has announced that it will introduce a new law will ensure that furloughed employees receive statutory redundancy pay based on their normal wages, rather than a reduced furlough rate after it was found that some businesses are basing redundancy payments of the 80% salaries that furloughed staff are receiving.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Eat Out to Help Out Clarification

The guidance for businesses on the Eat out to Help Out Scheme has been updated to clarify that this scheme is not applicable to any packaged products. The new examples include: a golf package, a wedding package and a hospitality event package. Eligibility requirements mean the business must unbundle the package and sell the food and drink component separately.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Job Retention Bonus

The government is introducing a new Job Retention Bonus to provide additional support to employers who keep on their furloughed employees in meaningful employment, after the government's Coronavirus Job

Retention Scheme ends on 31 October 2020. The Job Retention Bonus is a one-off payment to employers of £1,000 for every employee who they previously claimed for under the scheme, and who remains continuously employed through to 31 January 2021. Eligible employees must earn at least £520 a month on average between the 1 November 2020 and 31 January 2021. Employers will be able to claim the Job Retention Bonus after they have filed PAYE for January and payments will be made to employers from February 2021. Full guidance will be published by the end of September.

Full details can be found [here](#).

Closure of Local Authority Grants

Please note that the Local Authority Grant Schemes will close on 28th August. This includes the Small Business Grant, the Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grant and the Discretionary Grant.

Local councils **in Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland** have been processing and distributing Small Business Grants and Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grants to eligible businesses over the last few weeks. As of 29th July, 91.2% of grants have been paid. That means payments have been made to 19,499 businesses, to the value of £226.9. A further 1,067 businesses have benefitted from the Discretionary Grant Scheme with grants paid to a value of £9.7m. Applications will continue to be checked and processed by Local Authorities currently but all schemes will come to an end by 28th August. Updated figures are published weekly [here](#).

Education & Skills

Extra University Places Released

Extra university places for engineering, science and nursing courses have been made available for September. The Government has approved over 9,000 additional places at UK universities for courses that will deliver vital services, support the economy and generate positive outcomes for students and the taxpayer.

As part of the Government's aim to drive an increase in science and innovation and encourage STEM subject take-up, it has approved more than 1,300 extra university places for engineering courses, 756 places for bio-sciences and almost 500 for maths courses.

Full details can be found [here](#)

School Improvement Projects

£560 million investment fast-tracked to improve school buildings.

Funding has today (5 August) been allocated for 580 building projects at academies, sixth form colleges and voluntary aided schools in England to transform facilities and improve school buildings.

The funding will be used to repair and upgrade school facilities and create modern, fit-for-purpose spaces that meet schools' needs. It also allows for a small number of expansion projects to increase school capacity.

Projects range from the upgrading of boilers to new green, energy-efficient models, to the complete refurbishment of a classroom block with brand new facilities.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Sector Specific Updates

Visitor Economy

The latest iteration of the ONS research on the impact of Coronavirus on UK businesses has been published. This covers the period from 29th June to 12th July.

- 33% of accommodation and food service businesses reported that they had reopened over this period.
- It was also reported that 18% of staff had returned from furlough.
- 21% of businesses in the sector reported that they had still not opened

- 13% indicated that they were not planning to reopen anytime soon. This is far greater than the average across all business sectors – which is 6.8% and 4.5% respectively.

The only sector in worse shape is the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector wherein 43% of businesses are still not open and almost 30% don't expect to reopen any time soon.

These figures highlight the fact that tourism and hospitality remains one of the most impact sectors and will require extended support.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Housing and Construction

Help to Buy Scheme

Changes to the current Help to Buy scheme contractual deadlines have been implemented, due to delays caused by COVID-19. The deadline for home builders to complete Help to Buy homes will move from 31 December 2020 to 28 February 2021. The legal completion date for most homebuyers remains as 31 March 2021. Some homebuyers will have more time to complete their purchase and move into their new homes if they reserved it by 30 June 2020.

Full details can be found [here](#)

£1.3 billion investment to deliver homes, infrastructure and jobs

Funds to deliver up to 45,000 homes, create up to 85,000 jobs and upgrade skills and infrastructure to help fuel a green economic recovery has recently been announced.

- Over 300 shovel-ready projects in England to share £900 million investment to build homes and infrastructure, and create jobs
- £360 million investment confirmed to deliver 26,000 new homes on brownfield land
- Strict accreditation rules for tradespeople involved in the £2 billion Green Homes Grant scheme to ensure homes are of the highest quality

Full details can be found [here](#)

£2 billion green homes grants

Tradespeople are urged to sign up for TrustMark accreditation as part of the new Green Homes Grant scheme.

- Government urges tradespeople to sign up for TrustMark accreditation in drive to support over 100,000 jobs through a new energy efficiency scheme
- New Green Homes Grant will give over 600,000 homeowners in England up to £10,000 to install insulation, heat pumps, draft proofing and more to help households cut energy bills
- Strict accreditation rules for tradespeople involved in the scheme, giving households confidence that improvements to their homes will be of the highest quality

Full details can be found [here](#)

Transport and Motoring

Guidance on MOTs

Motorists are being encouraged to bring their MOT forward if it's due in September, October or November 2020, to help beat the expected rush for tests.

Cars, motorcycles and light vans that were due an MOT between 30 March and 31 July 2020 were given a 6-month extension to help keep motorists moving during the coronavirus pandemic.

Vehicles that are due an MOT from 1 August 2020 will not get an extension and will need to be tested as normal.

Full details can be found [here](#)

Fixed Key Messaging

- Last payments for the Local Authority Grant Schemes will be made on 28th August 2020. If you are eligible for support and yet to claim, contact your Local Authority [here](#).
- 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](#)

