



LRFBIZ V31– ECONOMIC RECOVERY VERSION

EDUCATION RESTART EDITION

Lincolnshire Resilience Forum – Recovery Cell Comms Distribution

2 September 2020

Headline Updates

Education resumes across England

As the new school, FE, and university terms begin from this week across Greater Lincolnshire, the LRF provides a summary of the key mitigations and plans in place. Click to skip to the [Education and Skills](#) section of this edition to find out more.

Changes to Job Retention (furlough) Scheme

From 1 September, government will pay 70% of wages up to a maximum cap of £2,187.50 for the hours the employee is on furlough and employers will top up employees' wages to ensure they receive 80% (up to £2,500). Read information and changes [here](#).

Unless you're making a new claim for an employee who is a military reservist or is returning from statutory parental leave, you can only continue to claim through the scheme if:-

- You have previously furloughed the employee for 3 consecutive weeks between March 1 and 30 June
- You submitted your claim before 31 July

Information about the [Job Retention Bonus](#) was published on 31 July.

New payment for people self-isolating in highest risk areas

Workers on low incomes who need to self-isolate and are unable to work from home in areas with high incidence of COVID-19 can benefit from a new payment scheme where individuals must meet the following criteria:-

- Have tested positive for Covid-19 or received a notification from NHS Test and Trace asking them to self-isolate
- Have agreed to comply with the notification from NHS Test and Trace and provided contact details to the local authority.
- Be employed or self-employed.
- Be unable to work from home (checks will be undertaken on all applicants) and will lose income as a result
- Be currently receiving Universal Credit or Working Tax Credit.

More information is available [here](#) .

NHS Test and Trace successfully reaches almost 300,000 people

The latest weekly statistics show that the service has consistently reached the vast majority of those testing positive and their contacts in 3 months of operation.

Where contact details are shared, contact tracers have reached 88.3% of contacts since the service launched and the number of people coming forward for a test has increased by 57% since mid-June.

Business and Economy Updates

£20m Government Kickstarting Fund launched

Applications for the £20 million in government funding to help SMEs recover from the effects of COVID-19 will be open from 9:00am on Thursday 3rd September 2020. £735,000 is dedicated to Lincolnshire businesses, with grants of between £1,000 and £3,000 available for SMEs to claim.

Businesses can use the funding to support COVID-19 recovery projects, such as purchasing new equipment and technology, or towards professional, financial or legal advice to help them adjust to the new normal. **These grants are 100% funded, and do not need to be financially matched by the business. However, as funding is limited the grants will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.**

To receive funding, businesses must [express an interest](#) after applications open on 3rd September. **Doing so will not guarantee applicants are successful.** Once applicants have expressed an interest, they will receive a link to complete an application for grant funding. Recipients will have three weeks in which to complete and return applications, after which they will be assessed against our eligibility criteria. Subject to the application fulfilling the eligibility criteria, a grant award will subsequently be made.

Grants cannot be offered on a retrospective basis, and so it is important that businesses have not purchased or entered in to an agreement for the purchase of any goods or services until receipt of a successful grant award has been made. If applicants are not included in the first round of grants, they will be notified if further funding becomes available.

Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) for more information [here](#).

Covid-19 Resources for businesses from the LRF

Consider including basic key messages when communicating with customers via text messages, emails, receipts, Facebook etc, including automated messages such as booking confirmations and out of office messages.

Use [videos](#) and/or [graphics](#) on TV screens in reception areas, staff rooms, canteens, websites and social media. We are working with local GPs to develop some short videos which we hope to add soon

Display [posters](#) in toilets, communal areas, noticeboards or include flyers in carrier bags/deliveries (again please note multiple folders)

Include resources and/or key messages within newsletters or e-bulletins

Consider pre-recorded telephone messages for voicemails or when customers are placed on hold.

Example messaging

- *We love having you back but please help us to stay open. Got symptoms? Get tested. High temperature or new continuous cough or loss of taste or smell? Find out how to get a test and how long to isolate, at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119.*
- *Contact tracing is the most effective way of controlling the spread please help us by leaving your contact details. Find out more: nhs.uk/coronavirus*

- *To stop the spread of coronavirus, everyone has to play their part by isolating if symptomatic, booking a test as soon as you experience symptoms. Find out more: [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)*
- *Self-isolate when alerted. If you're told you have been exposed to an infected person you must self-isolate for 14 days. Play your part. Protect your friends and family. Find out more at: [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)*

Coronavirus and the economic impacts on the UK- 27 August 2020

New experimental data on the UK economy detailing the impact on businesses from COVID-19 is available [here](#). Data is from the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey, designed to estimate the impact over the previous 2 weeks and the expectations for the following 2 weeks.

Respond to Call for Evidence on the recognition of professional qualifications and regulation of professions

The government has opened a [Call for Evidence](#) to gather insights into how professional qualifications are recognised and professions are regulated. The Department of Business, Economy and the Industrial Strategy (BEIS) would like to hear your views and experiences on employing regulated professionals and using services provided by these professionals. To respond, please complete the [online questionnaire](#) or submit your response to professional-regulation-evidence@beis.gov.uk by 23 October.

Education & Skills

Minimising Risks for contracting coronavirus in schools

Key Messages:

- Schools are preparing for all pupils to return full-time from the start of the autumn term, including those in school-based nurseries
- Schools must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures
- Schools should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessments and draw up plans for the autumn term that address the risks identified using the system of controls set out below
- These include:
 - People who are ill stay at home
 - Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
 - Enhanced cleaning arrangements
 - Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
 - Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination
- How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:
 - Grouping children together
 - Avoiding contact between groups
 - Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
 - Staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

Preparedness of Lincolnshire's Universities

Key Messages:

Tailored support has been given to the University of Lincoln, City of Lincoln Council, and with Bishop Grossteste University, and a close working partnership with the county's Higher Education (HE) providers is being developed.

- Specific actions being discussed with the University of Lincoln are as follows:

- International Students offered transport from arrival in the UK will be required to quarantine upon arrival in Lincoln in university accommodation – dependant on current guidelines at that time.
- Face coverings to be provided to all students with an expectation they are to be used in all university buildings.
- Lecturers to use face shields when delivering seminars
- Creation of cohort groups in university accommodation plus small seminars ('bubbles'), each with assigned 'leaders' to aid communication and contact tracing.
- Larger lectures are to continue to be taught online.
- Reducing proximity in high-traffic areas (one way systems)
- Additional licencing to offer social and recreational facilities (including late opening premises) on campus
- Strong communication messages being supported by the student union.
- City of Lincoln Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) are continuing to provide information to private sector housing with regards to student accommodation
- Professional service staff to work on a rota basis to reduce the number of staff on site and to create additional seminar space

Readiness for Return to Education

Key Messages:

- All schools have been supported to implement government guidance and to prepare for September
- It is expected that the mandated risk mitigation measures will be in place in all schools
- Most schools should be able to add some additional social distancing elements, but this will not be possible for all.
- **Primary schools** are well placed to respond to a positive case or outbreak by isolating a classroom cohort / bubble. This is expected to keep disruption of pupil's education to a minimum and is considered likely to stop transmission progressing throughout the school.
- **Special Schools** are set to welcome the vast majority of children back to their communities.
- Those students with complex health needs are being risk assessed by schools to understand mitigations that can protect in partnership with schools for the most complex cases.
- **Secondary schools**, which will have larger, year-group sized bubbles, will be supported by additional contact tracing in the event of a positive case in order to identify higher-risk contacts. In some cases this may prevent an entire year-group size bubble being isolated, but this will be considered as part of case or outbreak response by the Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT).
- **FE settings and Universities** will have pupils in multiple 'bubbles' (accommodation, subject-based and social) and so will be supported by the LORT to progress contact tracing and isolation of close contacts in the event of an outbreak. Bubble isolation will be considered on merit.

Read full guidance at [Government guidance](#)

Thank you from the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, has written a letter to all school and college staff to share his thanks for your efforts in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 outbreak and the preparations you have done to welcome all students back to education for the autumn term. [Read the full letter.](#)

Webinars

Date	Topic	Booking Link
17/09/2020	Online Media Skills Training	https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/events/event-details/?id=1187&navigatedFromSearch=true

Please see the Business Lincolnshire Events page for the full list of current business events - <https://www.businesslincolnshire.com/events/>

Fixed Key Messaging

- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) 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](#)

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](#)

