



## LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

04 November 2020

### LRFBIZ V39– ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

#### Headline Updates

##### Coronavirus Lockdown Restrictions - LRF Summary

[COVID-19 case numbers](#) are rising rapidly across the whole of the UK and in other countries and we are required to act now to control the spread of the virus. The single most important action is to stay at home, to protect the NHS, and save lives. From Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, the Government is taking the following action:

1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purposes.
2. Preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.
3. Closing certain businesses and venues.

These new measures have been carefully judged to achieve the maximum reduction in growth in the number of cases, preventing the NHS from being overwhelmed, whilst ensuring that schools, colleges and universities stay open and that as many people as possible continue to work.

Until Thursday 5 November, the relevant [Local Covid Alert Level](#) measures will continue to apply. From Thursday the national restrictions replace the local restrictions across all areas. The new measures will apply nationally for four weeks up to Wednesday 2 December. At the end of the period, Government will assess whether safe to return to a regional approach, based on the latest data.

Complying with the new measures will help limit the spread of coronavirus, reduce the impact on the NHS and save lives. They will be underpinned by law which will make clear what citizens and businesses must and must not do from 5 November. The relevant authorities, including the police, will have powers to enforce the law - including through fines and dispersing gatherings.

Protect your loved ones. [Download the App.](#)

##### Additional COVID-19 support announced

The **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** has been extended to 2nd December 2020, with employees receiving 80% of their salary for hours not worked up to a cap of £2,500 a month. In addition, businesses who are forced to close their premises due to the national lockdown could be eligible for a grant of up to £3,000 under the [Local Restrictions Support Grant](#), to be administered by rate-billing district authorities. If you're self-employed, a third round of the [Self-Employed Income Support Scheme](#) has also been announced. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

## Business and Economic Updates

### Business Lockdown Guidance - LRF Summary

Government has ordered certain businesses and venues to close. These include:

- All non-essential retail, including, but not limited to clothing and electronics stores, vehicle showrooms, travel agents, betting shops, auction houses, tailors, car washes, tobacco and vape shops.
- Indoor and outdoor leisure facilities such as bowling alleys, leisure centres and gyms, sports facilities including swimming pools, golf courses and driving ranges, dance studios, stables and riding centres, soft play facilities, climbing walls and climbing centres, archery and shooting ranges, water and theme parks.
- Entertainment venues such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, museums and galleries, casinos, adult gaming centres and arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, concert halls, zoos and other animal attractions, botanical gardens.
- Personal care facilities such as hair, beauty and nail salons, tattoo parlours, spas, massage parlours, body and skin piercing services, non-medical acupuncture, and tanning salons.

**FOOD SHOPS, SUPERMARKETS, GARDEN CENTRES AND CERTAIN OTHER RETAILERS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICES CAN REMAIN OPEN. ESSENTIAL RETAIL SHOULD FOLLOW COVID-SECURE GUIDELINES TO PROTECT CUSTOMERS, VISITORS AND WORKERS.**

- Non-essential retail can remain open for delivery to customers and click-and-collect.
- Hospitality venues like restaurants, bars and pubs must close, but can still provide takeaway and delivery services. However, takeaway of alcohol will not be allowed.
- Hotels, hostels and other accommodation should only open for those who have to travel for work purposes and for a limited number of other exemptions which will be set out in law.
- A full list of the business closures will be published and set out in law.
- Some venues will be allowed to remain open for specific exempt activities, such as childcare and support groups. Support groups that are essential to deliver in person can continue with up to 15 participants where formally organised to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support.

A number of public services will also stay open. These include:

- The NHS and medical services like GPs
- Jobcentre Plus sites
- Courts
- Civil Registrations Offices

### Work & Travel - LRF Summary

To help contain the virus, everyone who can work effectively from home must do so. Where people cannot do so (for instance people who work in critical national infrastructure, construction or manufacturing) they should continue to travel to work/attend their workplace. This is essential to keeping the country operating and supporting vital sectors and employers.

Public sector employees working in essential services, including education settings, should continue to go into work. The risk of transmission can be substantially reduced if [COVID-secure guidelines](#) are followed closely. Extra consideration should be given to those people at higher risk.

### Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme extended

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until 2nd December 2020. Employees will receive 80% of their salary for hours not worked, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. The cost for employers of retaining workers will be less than under the current scheme, which ended on 31st October 2020. Businesses will still have the option to bring furloughed employees to work part-time, and will only be required to pay National Insurance and employee pension contributions - 5% of total employment costs.

In light of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme's extension, The [Job Support Scheme](#) has been put on hold until 2nd December 2020. Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) for more information on the JRS and regular updates.

### Self-Employment Income Support Scheme extended for round three

The government has announced a third round of Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. Whether or not you claimed a grant during the first two rounds of the scheme, you are eligible for round three if you are a sole trader or partnership and declare that you intend to continue trading but:

- Are experiencing decreased demand due to COVID-19
- Are unable to trade due to COVID-19

This extension to the scheme will last for six months, up until April 2021.

If you're a sole trader or partnership and would like to know if you're eligible for SEISS, [click here](#) to use the government's self-employment eligibility tool. Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) for more information on the SEISS scheme and regular updates.

### Job Support Scheme on hold

With the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme being extended for another a month, the Job Support Scheme, originally meant to begin on 1st November 2020, is on hold until 2nd December 2020.

### Greater Lincolnshire LEP Online Jobs & Careers Fair

The first [Greater Lincolnshire Online Jobs and Career Fair](#) will go live on Wednesday 11th November, giving employers and training organisations a chance to virtually meet people looking for work or training.

Next week's event will be the first in a series of 12 live jobs fairs taking place monthly over the coming year and hosted on a new [dedicated website](#). The fairs are being staged by the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and each one will last for three hours. The first fair will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November between 12 noon and 3pm. Employers and training organisations can take part as exhibitors with a virtual exhibition stand, and members of the public can visit and interact with the exhibitors, just like at a physical event.

Each exhibitor will have their own virtual space which will contain videos or other material such as job vacancies or a training brochure. Visitors to the fair will be able to visit the website, browse the exhibitors, chat with the employer by instant messenger, Zoom or email, and they can send their CV direct to the employer. The fairs are free to both exhibitors and visitors. Click to register at <https://greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk/register>

### Step-by-step EU export guide

How we trade with the EU will be very different from the 1st of January 2021. Avoid disruptions and make sure your business is prepared with the government's step-by-step guide for exporting goods post-EU exit. Click [here](#) to find out more.

## Grants4Growth celebrates 200 grants claimed

Since its launch in 2017, funding from Grants4Growth has helped Lincolnshire SMEs to purchase the capital equipment and machinery they need to grow. Now, they've reached their 200th grant claim - a new automated baler machine for Spalding-based recycling business Harkenn. The claim also means that the programme has contributed more than £2.1 million to businesses across the county, with £870,000 left for SMEs to claim. [Are you eligible?](#)

## £134 million boost to help UK businesses build back greener

Businesses across can benefit from government's £134 million investment, enabling ground-breaking clean growth projects develop new technologies and secure new jobs.

- £134 million government investment to keep UK's greenest, most innovative businesses thriving during coronavirus pandemic and could help to secure and create new jobs across the country
- projects to service offshore wind turbines autonomously, using AI to reduce beer waste in the brewing process and converting seaweed into compostable packaging to tackle plastic waste set to benefit
- investment part of the government's commitment to build back better by supporting the UK's risk takers to bring their novel ideas to market

Read further details [here](#).

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## Employment, Skills and Education Updates

### Going to school, college and university - LRF Summary

The Government will continue to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our young people and will not be closing schools, colleges or universities. It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school. Schools have implemented a range of protective measures to make them safe.

Universities have welcomed students back and we have [published guidance advising universities on reopening](#) to ensure they have safety measures in place to minimise the spread of the virus. Universities and adult education settings should consider moving to increased levels of online learning where possible.

There are further restrictions in place:

- Those who live at university must not move back and forward between a permanent home and student home during term time and should only return home at the end of term for Christmas. Further guidance will be published on the end of term.

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## Webinars & Events

### #GoDigital2020

This year, the Business Lincolnshire #GoDigital conference is going virtual. Delegates will be introduced to the many ways digital can help businesses to recover after COVID-19, with guidance bought via expert speakers, specialist-led workshops and an expo showcasing the funding support available to Lincolnshire SMEs. [Book now](#)

## Business Lincolnshire Webinars

These interactive master classes are a virtual learning experience designed to help business growth. Broken down into two to three manageable workshops and with a select number of participants, delegates get first-hand experience and guidance from a business expert, as well as tasks to complete to ensure you're on track. As an added bonus, participants will get a one-to-one advice session at the end of the short course, with bespoke recommendations to take their business forward. The whole package is fully-funded at no cost to participating businesses.

Sign up for the following:-

- [Simplifying Social Media for Success](#)
- [Integrating Facebook in your Business](#)
- [Get More Website Visitors By Ranking Higher in Google](#)
- [How to Complete a Grant Application](#)
- [Cyber Security for Any Occasion](#)

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## 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 response and recovery. Follow and tag @ [twitter LRF](#) [twitter LEP](#) [twitter Business Lincolnshire](#)

CONTACT THE TEAM – IF YOU NEED ANY HELP OR ASSISTANCE PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM						
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