



LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

18 November 2020

LRFBIZ V41– ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

Headlines

- **Hands, Face, Space.** Keep washing your hands thoroughly, for 20 seconds. Use a face covering unless exempt. Keep two metres apart from others, or one metre plus precautions.
- **Our actions as individuals matter.** It is our own personal responsibility to make sure we each keep to the lockdown restrictions - to protect the NHS and to save lives - and keep doing the basics with hand washing, face coverings and social distancing.
- **Know where to look for help.** Information is being shared by agencies including the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum, councils and police. If you're concerned about a business premises not complying with the lockdown restrictions set out by Government, you can raise your concerns with the Public Protection Team at your local council. Information on the restrictions is available at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

More rapid COVID-19 tests to be rolled out across England

600,000 lateral flow tests will be sent out this week to kick-start the significant expansion of testing, followed by weekly local allocations.

- This next stage of partnership between NHS Test and Trace and local directors of public health will enable increased testing of priority and high-risk groups in local communities on a weekly basis, and;
- The increase in asymptomatic testing will help pick up more cases, stop the spread of the virus and support communities and critical industries

Further info available [here](#).

Government secures 5 million doses of Moderna vaccine

Further to the Pfizer vaccine announced last week, Government has concluded negotiations with Moderna to secure access to 5 million doses of its promising coronavirus vaccine which could be delivered to the UK from Spring 2021, if approved by the medicines regulator. This deal increases the total number of doses secured by the UK to 355 million, as part of government's strategy to build a diverse portfolio of promising vaccines

Further info is available [here](#).

Business and Economic Updates

Local Restrictions Support Grant

Significant government grant funding of £2.2 billion will be distributed to businesses across England by councils. The following schemes are now open for submissions unless otherwise stated. Visit [here](#) for an overview or on individual links to find out more.

- [Boston Borough Council](#)
- [City of Lincoln Council](#)
- [East Lindsey District Council](#)
- [North East Lincolnshire Council](#)
- [North Kesteven District Council](#)
- [North Lincolnshire Council](#)
- [Rutland Council](#)
- [South Holland District Council](#) pending
- [South Kesteven District Council](#)
- [West Lindsey District Council](#)

Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan: The Bounce Back Loan Scheme enables smaller businesses to access finance more quickly during the coronavirus outbreak. New options are available to top up existing loans, extend the loan period, make interest-only repayments, or pause repayments. The scheme is open to applications until 31 January 2021. If you already have a Bounce Back Loan but borrowed less than you were entitled to, you can top up your existing loan to your maximum amount. You must request the top-up by 31 January 2021. For more information about the scheme click [here](#).

Restaurants, pubs and cafes will get automatic freedoms to provide takeaway services for another year. This was due to end on 23 March 2021 but will now be extended by another year. To know more about the automatic freedoms to provide takeaway services for another year, click [here](#)

How HMRC will continue to support customers and the economy: HMRC's work has been at the centre of the government's response to COVID-19. HMRC have [issued a briefing](#) on how they will work with customers and stakeholders over the coming months, while COVID-19 continues to impact the country.

Boost for restaurants, pubs and cafes as Jenrick extends takeaway services. Restaurants, pubs and cafes will get automatic freedoms to provide takeaway services for another year.

- Government extends temporary freedom for pubs, restaurants and cafes to provide food takeaways by another year
- Freedoms enabling outdoor markets also extended in further boost for hospitality sector, enabling them to plan ahead for the economic recovery with certainty
- New protections for cultural venues, measures enabling emergency building such as Nightingale hospitals extended, and space standards introduced for new homes built through 'permitted development'

Read further info [here](#).

Webinars & Events

EU Transition

Transition Business Readiness Forum

The UK has left the EU, and the transition period comes to an end on 31 December 2020.

Join the latest UK Transition Forum to understand the actions that the businesses you work with need to take to get ready for new rules that will come into force from 1 January 2021. Please note that this forum is for business representative organisations and trade associations only.

Please share the business coronavirus and transition bulletin with your networks, details on how to sign up are below.

When: Thursday 19 November 2020, 14:00 - 15:00

Where: Online (MS Teams), please register on Eventbrite via this [link](#)

The password is: Transition19

The forum will include updates on:

- **Trader Support Service (TSS):** TSS will support companies with the changes to Northern Ireland trade which take effect on 1 January 2021. The free-to-use service will provide guidance and training, a digital service to support declarations, and support from customs experts.
- **UK-EU negotiations.**

The agenda is still being developed and the above is subject to change.

Gov.Uk

Attend one of Government's webinars to help prepare your business.

- **Business travel and investing or establishing in the EU**
- **11am Wednesday 25 November**
- (and then on demand) - [register here.](#)

Watch other sector specific webinars on demand [here](#) and register for all transition webinars [here](#).

For the latest transition information direct to your inbox, sign up to the Transition Readiness Business Bulletin [here](#).

Transition Business Readiness Bulletin

The transition period comes to an end on 31 December 2020 and businesses need to act now to get ready for new rules that will come into force from 1 January 2021. To receive updates on the latest information for businesses, subscribe for free to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) bulletin [here](#).

Peer Networks

[Peer Networks](#) is a national peer-to-peer networking programme for SME leaders that want to grow and develop their organisation for future success. Click here to find and more.

Wednesday 18/11/20 2.00-2.20pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81399083463>

Meeting ID: 813 9908 3463

Passcode: 156937

Thursday 19/11/20 9.00-9.20am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84096991939>

Meeting ID: 840 9699 1939

Passcode: 349897

Coronavirus Business Bulletin

Businesses have been responding to an unprecedented pandemic. To receive updates on the latest information and actions for businesses, subscribe for free to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) Coronavirus bulletin [here](#).

Fixed Key Messaging

- **HANDS FACE SPACE.** Keep washing your hands, use a face covering, and keep two metres apart
- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) for continued support to your business
- Call the Covid helpline on 01522 782189 and select option 2 for business queries
- View the latest Government lockdown guidance [here](#)
- 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						
Shaun Gibbons Chair South Holland DC shaun.gibbons@sholland.gov.uk 07870 157203	Tony Crowden Deputy Chair NHS tony.crowden@optum.com 07342 034035	Mark Stoneham Lincolnshire County Council mark.stoneham@lincolnshire.gov.uk 07901 512504	Julie Heath West Lindsey DC julie.heath@westlindsey.gov.uk 07775 026257	Hannah Williams North Kesteven DC hannah.williams@n-kesteven.gov.uk 07500 102116	Emma Staff Boston Borough Council/ East Lindsey DC emma.staff@boston.gov.uk 07929 862487	Kate Storey Greater Lincolnshire LEP Kate.storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk 07919 166416

