



LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

02 December 2020

LRFBIZ V43– ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

Headlines

**Lockdown ended at 00:01 today: Wednesday 2 December
Across Greater Lincolnshire:**

**North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire are categorised as TIER 3
Rutland is categorised as TIER 2**

The Government has published more detailed guidance on the Rules and Restrictions that apply to the revised Tier levels that come into force **TODAY**.

[Tier 3 Very High Alert: Guidance](#)

[Tier 2 High Alert: Guidance](#)

[Tier 1 Medium Alert: Guidance](#)

Vaccine

The NHS in Lincolnshire welcomes confirmation that a coronavirus vaccine has been approved by the government following recommendation by the MHRA. The NHS has been working with partners across the system for many months to prepare for the arrival of the vaccine and is now finalising details in readiness for a confirmed start date, as the NHS across the country is.

Vaccination Programme - Call for vaccination teams

GPs are already signing up to take part to ensure we benefit from their experience and talks are well advanced with community pharmacists to roll out the biggest vaccination programme ever undertaken. Additionally there is a call for colleagues across the NHS and outside of it, with experience of vaccinating or are willing to be trained, to put themselves forward to participate in the vital next phase in the health service's COVID-19 response.

A wider group of clinicians and health professionals is sought, as well as others like cabin crew, fire officers, live events staff and others who have first aid training, to help with the programme.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is ensuring that everyone who comes forward will receive all necessary training, supervision and PPE for the safety of staff, volunteers and patients alike. If you can help, the NHS needs you. Head to england.nhs.uk/JoinVaccineTeam now.

Consistent across all Tiers

1. The stay-at-home requirement will end, with travel being permitted again subject to guidance in each tier
2. Shops, personal care, gyms and the wider leisure sector will reopen
3. Collective worship, weddings and outdoor sports can resume
4. People will no longer be limited to seeing only one other person in outdoor public spaces - the rule of 6 will now apply outdoors as it did in the previous set of tiers.

Everyone who can work from home should do so. Where people cannot do so, they should continue to travel to their workplace. A summary of local restrictions, including what you can and cannot do in each tier, is available [here](#), including information for businesses and venues.

For a series of posters displaying information about the various tiers of restrictions in England from 2 December 2020 click [posters](#)

Find out more information on [tiers](#), including information for businesses and venues. The government will review the allocations every 14 days, with the first review complete by the end of 16 December.

Business and Economic Updates

LEP December e-newsletter

Read our latest LEP e-newsletter with a focus on SUPPORTING BUSINESS online [HERE](#) to include an introduction and reflections from Mary Stuart; Vice-Chancellor at the University of Lincoln, LEP Director, and Chair of the Business Lincolnshire Board.

Chancellor's Plan for Jobs: Skills incentives for employers

As part of the Chancellor's Plan for Jobs, a range of skills programmes, some of which offer financial incentives, are available for employers who are considering hiring employees or offering work experience. For business seeking to:

- Develop the talent pool or develop a motivated, skilled and qualified workforce
- Build a pipeline of talent for junior positions
- Test out if someone is right for permanent job or apprenticeship
- Carry out a skill needs analysis to understand gaps and find solutions
- Find a flexible programme that can be tailored to meet recruitment needs
- Find more flexible ways to offer a work placement

These incentives can help employers invest in their business, and help people up-skill and improve their chances of securing a good job in a highly competitive labour market. To learn more about the variety of offers available and how to apply please visit [GOV.UK](#).

Also visit **Business Lincolnshire's Redundancy and HR support** pages for a toolkit and local and national support contacts and programmes [here](#).

Jobcentre guidance on COVID-19 Local Restriction Tiers

Jobcentres will remain open, as they have throughout the pandemic, to provide essential services to those we cannot help remotely. The Department will follow the latest government and PHE guidance to ensure colleagues and customers remain safe throughout. From 3 December 2020 in England, the updated jobcentre guidance available [here](#) will apply to customers, and will ensure essential support is provided whilst keeping colleagues and customers safe.

Christmas opening hours boost for high street shopping

Retailers will be able to extend their daily opening hours from Monday to Saturday in the run up to Christmas and through January.

- Shops able to open for longer in run up to Christmas and through January sales
- Extended opening hours will help keep shoppers and retail staff safe

Read further info [here](#). The Government has also published the guidance to the rules and restrictions that will apply over the Christmas period available [here](#).

EU Transition Period

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP), has written to specific business sectors providing tailored advice and key actions these businesses must take after the Transition period ends on **31 December 2020, just 32 days away**.

- [UK businesses](#)
- [Agri-food and biosecurity sector](#)
- [Advanced manufacturing sector](#)
- [Tourism and hospitality sector](#)
- [Construction sector](#)
- [Retail sector](#)
- [Chemicals sector](#)
- [Life sciences sector](#)
- [Metals and other materials sector](#)
- [Consumer goods sector](#)
- [Professional services sector](#)

Exporting from 1 January

Exporting active substances manufactured in Great Britain from 1 January 2021: Guidance has been updated to reflect how the 'Written Confirmation' process for active substances manufactured in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) will be handled from 1 January 2021. For more information, click [here](#).

Export licences and certificates from 1 January 2021: Guidance on licences, certificates and special rules for taking goods out of the UK from 1 January 2021, has been updated to provide further information about exporting cultural goods. For more information, click [here](#).

HMRC newsletter on Community, Common Transit and Transport International Roturiers: HMRC have released another newsletter in their series. This edition explains the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) specifically for Northern Ireland, it's implications and the technical changes to the guarantee reference amounts. To view this, and previous editions, click [here](#).

Other useful transition publication links: -

- HMRC guidance on VAT and overseas goods sold directly to customers in Great Britain on [standard markets](#) and [online markets](#).
- DEFRA amended publication on [Food and Drink \(EU Exit\) Regulations](#) 2020.
- FCDO statement issued on the [Protocol on Gibraltar](#), following the second meeting of the UK-EU Specialised Committee.
- Animal and Plant Health Agency guidance on [exporting horses and ponies](#) and [importing them](#) from 1 January 2021.
- UK Government updated guidance on using [personal data](#) in business or organisation after 1 January 2021.
- DHSC's Chief Commercial Officer letter to [medicines and medical products suppliers](#) to help ensure the continuity of supply from 1 January 2021.
- DHSC guidance on [nutrition-related labelling, composition and standards](#) from 1 January 2021.
- DHSC updated government contact lists that [medical supply](#) businesses can use from 1 January 2021.
- The Marine Management Organisation updated statutory guidance on [exporting wild caught marine fishery products](#) to the EU from 1 January 2021.
- The Office for Product Safety and Standards guidance on product safety and metrology regulations for [Great Britain](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) markets from 1 January 2021.

Click to end to register for EU Transition Webinars.

Christmas and New Year Testing sites opening hours

DHSC has confirmed that *"Over the festive period, we want to ensure anyone who needs a test can still get access to the service. All regional test sites, local test sites and mobile test units will be open over the Bank Holidays. Please note they will be operating on slightly reduced hours. This enables us to*

balance the need to provide access, with the expectation demand may drop on the actual celebratory days."

	24/12	25/12 BH	28/12 BH	31/12	1/1 BH
Regional Test Site	08:00 – 17:00	09:00 – 15:00	09:00 – 15:00	08:00 – 17:00	09:00 – 15:00
Local Test Site	08:00 - 20:00	09:00 – 15:00	09:00 – 15:00	08:00 – 20:00	09:00 – 15:00
Mobile Test Unit	10:00 – 16:00	10:00 – 15:00	10:00 – 15:00	10:00 - 16:00	10:00 – 16:00

Webinars & Events

Webinars for organisations that trade with the EU

Sign up for a webinar or watch pre-recorded webinars to find out what businesses need to do to make sure they are ready from 1 January 2021. Guidance and sign up can be found [here](#).

- **HMRC customs declarations webinars:** HMRC have launched multiple editions of this live webinar covering how to complete customs import declarations and explaining how to make import declarations when importing goods between the EU and Great Britain. Register [here](#).
- **Department for International Trade webinars:** DIT are hosting a series of webinars primarily aimed at businesses which are UK based who importing and exporting goods. To register for the next webinar on 3 December at 10:30 am, click [here](#). Further sessions are scheduled to be held on 10 December and 17 December. Businesses can also watch a recording of DIT's transition period webinar on [YouTube](#).
- **Smart border webinar:** The Direction Générale des Douanes et Droits Indirects are hosting a webinar in English on 3 December 2020 at 2:30pm on the smart border, the French Customs IT solution to keep trade flowing between the UK and France despite the establishment of customs clearance at the border. To register, click [here](#).

Please share these with your business contacts and encourage them to register:

- [BEIS webinars](#)
- [Defra webinars](#)
- [HMRC webinars](#)

Visit the GOV.UK transition webinar page to find out more and register [here](#).

Trading with the EU: A video series has been released that explains what businesses need to do to be ready for 1 January 2021. These videos cover what businesses need to know about exports and imports, customs, commodity codes and controlled goods. To view the videos, click [here](#).

Podcast: Business and the Future of Immigration in 2021: The Home Office has created a podcast episode in partnership with Intelligence Squared to help you prepare for the points-based immigration system.

[Listen](#) now to Business and the Future of Immigration in 2021. Also available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple](#)

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						
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