



LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

03 February 2021

LRFBIZ V48– ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

Coronavirus Headlines

Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing for LCC frontline workers

The LRF continues to urge staff working in frontline health and care services, firefighters, Lincs police and other business critical staff who are not able to work from home, to take advantage of Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) at sites across the county. With approximately a third of cases being asymptomatic, accessing this testing is vital to reduce the onward transmission.

Even if staff have had their covid-19 vaccination it is advised that they continue getting tested twice weekly through the asymptomatic testing currently being offered to frontline staff. Sites are open from 8am-8pm daily including weekends on a walk-up basis:

- Lincoln Croft Street (St Swithens) Community Centre, Croft Street, Baggholme Road, Off Monks Road, Lincoln, LN2 5AX
- Haven High Tollfield Campus, 90-96 Tollfield Rd, Boston, PE21 9PN
- Peter Paine Performance Centre, Rosebery Ave, Boston, PE21 7QR
- Better Gym Sleaford: Oakside Park Industrial Estate, East Rd, Sleaford NG34 7EH
- Lincoln City Football Club, LNER Stadium, Lincoln, LN5 8LD

The possibility of opening additional sites in other areas is currently being considered to offer a more local option. Please remember that any employee, whether frontline or based at home who develops coronavirus symptoms, should get a test in the usual way: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

UK government secures additional 40 million doses of Valneva vaccine

The total number of Valneva vaccines is 100 million, to be manufactured in the UK in Scotland. Read more [here](#). The deal means the UK has now secured early access to over 400 million total doses of vaccines for 2021 and 2022 and boosts Scotland's vaccine production powerhouse at the site in West Lothian, supporting 100 highly-skilled jobs.

Business and Economic Updates

Humber's freeport bid goes to government this week

The Humber's freeport bid, which would bring thousands of jobs and millions of pounds of investment, will be sent to Whitehall this week. Read more [here](#).

Regional businesses have joined forces with the four local authorities and two enterprise partnerships (Greater Lincolnshire and Humber LEP's), to assemble the "most compelling bid for freeport status that the UK government will get to consider".

It features custom zones locations across the patch - including the four main ports - with three new tax sites highlighted for land east of Port of Hull, Goole and Able Marine Energy Park at North Killingholme.

Updated Businesses Support Guidance

Self-Employment Income support Scheme (SEISS)- third grant

Guidance has been updated with a YouTube video about how to claim SEISS, third grant. Watch the [video](#) and register for the free webinars to learn more about how to claim the third grant.

The Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSB) (for Closed Businesses)

Guidance has been updated with details of grants available during the national restriction period from 5 January 2021, onwards. To check whether businesses are eligible for a cash grant from their local council for each period under national restrictions, click [here](#).

Changes to the Kickstart Scheme

The government are making it easier for employers of all sizes to benefit from joining the scheme by removing the limit requiring they create a minimum of 30 vacancies to apply directly. From 3 February 2021, employers can apply directly to the [Kickstart scheme](#) for any number of job placements, as the threshold of 30 job placements has been removed. From 28 January 2021, applications from new Kickstart gateway have [closed](#). Kickstart gateways, already working with the scheme, can continue to add more employers and job placements to their grant agreement.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - Examples to help you calculate your employees' wages

Guidance has been updated with new calculation examples to cover the lookback period and examples to clarify eligibility for the annually paid. For examples to cover the lookback period, click [here](#), and for examples to clarify eligibility for the annually paid, click [here](#).

Latest Report on the tourism sector

Hotel Solutions have published their most recent report. Click [here](#) to view the Visit Lincoln blog along with the full report.

Sector outlines the latest position for manufacturing

Make UK makes recommendations for Government following the UK's exit from the EU. It highlights the key issues creating barriers to trade, and that will help manufacturing remain a critical driver of economic growth for the UK economy. Read the report [here](#).

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP are also working closely with government and the food industry and supply chains to find solutions to post-Brexit trade issues both in the short and longer term. To find out more, sign up to receive our monthly Food Security Newsletter by emailing kate.storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk

In more positive news, the Barclays Eagle Farm Lab team at Riseholme College and their national agritech lead are now accelerating their support programme. Launched in October, this is a partnership scheme with the University of Lincoln's Institute for Agri-food technology and Agri-robotics research centre and is a laboratory network of co-working spaces for start-ups and scale-ups around the country supporting entrepreneurs with the latest technology. The accelerated programme includes:-

- Laboratory spaces available for tenants in their incubator at Riseholme;
- Developing an investor programme;
- Planning a careers programme with the University;
- Collaboration for development and promotion of 3-4 online national events each year and cross promotion of these with the LEP and UK Food valley;

Government powers up electric vehicle revolution with £20 million charge points boost

The transport Secretary has announced funding to increase the number of electric vehicle charge points with streets up and down the country set for more electric vehicle charge points following multimillion-pound government investment. The Transport Secretary urges local councils to take advantage of the scheme as more drivers make the switch to electric and funding could double the number of on-street charge points government is supporting to nearly 8,000. Click [here](#) for further info.

Plan for Jobs: skills, employment, and support programmes for jobseekers

A [new page](#) brings together guidance for jobs seekers so they can develop their skills, get advice on job applications, and search for opportunities. This is part of the UK Government's Plan for Jobs to support, protect and create jobs across the UK.

Almost 20,000 jobs protected by Film & TV Production Restart Scheme

Almost 20,000 jobs in film and television have been protected by a government-backed scheme to get screen productions back up and running again, the Chancellor announced on 2 February. More than 160 productions are benefiting from government-backed scheme to protect against Covid-related losses, and productions can resume filming thanks to insurance against Covid-related losses. The £500 million scheme, part of the Plan for Jobs, has protected 19,460 jobs across UK film and TV since launch four months ago. Further info can be found [here](#).

Government's multimillion-pound support scheme for airports opens

The Airport and Ground Operations Support Scheme is now open to commercial airports and ground handlers who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Airports and ground handlers in England will be eligible to receive up to £8 million each from investment to ease pressure on airports hit by the coronavirus pandemic and reflects the sector's valuable contribution to the UK economy. Read further info [here](#).

EU Transition

All businesses can find out what has changed, and check their preparations, by visiting new video content from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The short, on-demand videos cover 18 topics, including importing and exporting, rules of origin and audit and accounting. [Register now](#) to immediately access the video content. New rules are here - make sure business is prepared.

Guidance for Hauliers

Guidance advice on site locations has been updated:-

- Closing times changed for haulier Covid-19 testing sites to 9.30pm;
- South Mimms has been opened for 24-hour testing; and
- To avoid delays, get tested at an advice site before entering Kent or travelling to other Channel crossing points.

For more information on the Haulier advice site, locations, and opening times, click [here](#)

Rules of Origin

Rules of Origin

Rules of Origin refers to where a product was manufactured and determines the 'economic nationality' of a good for international trade. Businesses need to know about them because the Trade and Cooperation Agreement means they can trade with the EU without paying tariffs - but only if their product meets the relevant Rules of Origin. To export tariff-free into the EU traders must check their goods meet the Rules of Origin requirements set out in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and have the right documentation. To confirm the requirements for goods and to find out more about the support available, check for details on [how to claim preferential \(zero\) tariffs](#), and see the documentation required.

- Read the full guidance on [meeting Rules of Origin when trading with the EU](#).
- Check the [TCA legal text](#) to see which rules apply to your goods (Chapter 2 as well as Annexes ORIG-1 to ORIG-4 will be most useful).

Rules of Origin is one of the topics explained in the new [on demand videos](#) which focus on priority topics for businesses. Also visit the Brexit Checker tool on [gov.uk/transition](#), which will provide a personalised list of the most up to date actions that businesses needs to take. For any further queries or general business advice you can contact governments' dedicated [business support helplines](#) or ask [customs and tax related queries](#) and [other border related queries](#) on one of the forums. There is specific [guidance and training](#) on moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland on gov.uk

Education & Skills

Education attendance restrictions to remain in place

The Prime Minister has confirmed that schools and colleges will not return to full face-to-face education after the February half-term and that the current attendance restrictions will remain in place until 8 March at the earliest.

Children of critical workers and vulnerable children and young people will still be able to attend schools and colleges, including special schools and alternative provision. Early years settings also remain open. All other pupils will continue to receive high quality remote education at home. Read more [here](#).

£50 million to support students impacted by Covid-19

New government funding will go to universities to help students facing financial difficulties arising from the impact of coronavirus. Thousands of students will benefit from an additional £50 million to support them with financial pressures from the pandemic, the Universities Minister announced on 2 February.

This funding is in addition to the £20 million announced in December, bringing the total to £70 million for this financial year. The new funding means that universities will be able to help students impacted by the pandemic, for example those facing additional costs for alternative accommodation, loss of employment, or extra costs to access their teaching online. Universities will distribute the funding and will be able to prioritise the funding to those most in need of help. Further info available [here](#).

Tools, Webinars & Events

Greater Lincolnshire LEP next Careers and Jobs Fair 25th February 2021

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP is hosting a series of online jobs and careers fairs.

At the 3rd Jobs Fair in January welcomed over 700 visitors to the live website; [www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk](#). 70 exhibitors from across the Greater Lincolnshire area took part, with good representation from different sectors and similar numbers are expected for the fair in February with a variety of vacancies being advertised.

The jobs fair is open to all individuals regardless of age, background or career-stage. Employers interested in registering for their free stand, simply go to: [www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk/register](#) To find out more go to [www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk](#)

The next fair will be on 25th January, 10am-1pm. It will be hosted by Matt Warman MP who is promoting it strongly amongst his constituents and networks, and will be delivering the welcome talk.

Business Lincolnshire Funded Courses

Online Masterclasses

Boost your skills and your business with Business Lincolnshire's fully-funded short courses. View the full list [here](#). Selected up-coming course include:-

- [NBV Starting in Business - 3 day online course](#), 04 February, online course
- [Chamber Connect: Cyber Security - The threat of Ransomware](#), 04 February, webinar
- [Developing a good Marketing Plan for your tourism business](#), 04 February, webinar
- [The Future of Sustainable Supply Chains](#), 09 February, Virtual online events platform
- [Reach over 2m active customers in Australia with Catch.com](#), 09 February, online
- [Overview of Digital Technology in 2021](#), 09 February, webinar

Fixed Key Messaging

- **HANDS FACE SPACE**
- Approved vaccines are safe and prevent the spread of infectious diseases
- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) for continued support to your business
- Call the Covid helpline on 01522 782189 and select option 2 for business queries
- 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@west-lindsey.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

