



## LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

24 February 2021

### LRFBIZ V51 - ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

#### Coronavirus Headlines

##### Prime Minister announces 'Roadmap to Recovery'

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the PM outlined a roadmap for the easing of national lockdown restrictions. There will be no return to a regional Tier system and the 'Stay Home' messaging will change to 'Stay Local' from the 29<sup>th</sup> of March onwards. The 4 Step Road Map is explained in detail below:

STEP 1 8 March	STEP 2 No earlier than 12 April At least 5 weeks after Step 1		
<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p><b>8 MARCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools and colleges open for all students</li> <li>Practical Higher Education courses</li> </ul>	<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As previous step</li> </ul>		
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**STEP 3**

No earlier than 17 May

At least 5 weeks after Step 2

**EDUCATION**

- As previous step

**SOCIAL CONTACT**

- Maximum 30 people outdoors
- Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review)

**BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES**

- Indoor hospitality
- Indoor entertainment and attractions
- Organised indoor sport (adult)
- Remaining accommodation
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)

**TRAVEL**

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel (subject to review)

**EVENTS**

- Most significant life events (30)
- Indoor events: 1,000 or 50% (plus pilots)
- Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25% (plus pilots)
- Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50% (plus pilots)

**STEP 4**

No earlier than 21 June

At least 5 weeks after Step 3

All subject to review

**EDUCATION**

- As previous step

**SOCIAL CONTACT**

- No legal limit

**BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES**

- Remaining businesses, including nightclubs

**TRAVEL**

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel

**EVENTS**

- No legal limit on life events
- Larger events

For further COVID-19 updates from Public Health England, click [here](#).

## Business and Economic Updates

### Call for businesses to join the National Workplace Testing Programme

The National Workplace Testing programme will identify more positive cases of Covid-19 and ensure the isolation of those who are infected, protecting key workers and our vital services.

The programme is aimed at individuals without symptoms and who cannot work from home during lockdown. Companies in England with over 50 employees can register on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) to order coronavirus tests for their workforces. Organisations with less than 50 staff, sole traders, the self-employed, or members of the public, should visit their [local authority's website](#) for further information about their testing services.

### New Covid-19 legislation for employers

There is a new offence under the self-isolation regulations for an employer to knowingly allow an employee who should be self-isolating to attend work with a fine of up to £10k per individual breach. Local authorities have the power to investigate these breaches, and the Covid-19 taskforce is working with NHS and Test & Trace to ensure the exchange of necessary data to support a prosecution following a pro-active investigation. Read the specific employer requirement under paragraph 7, and enforcement under paragraph 11: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1045/made>

## Business Secretary calls on businesses to continue supporting vaccine rollout

Kwasi Kwarteng called on businesses to maintain support for the national Covid-19 vaccine roll-out, as pledges of vaccine initiatives from individual companies continue to grow. Companies including IKEA, Timpson, and the John Lewis Partnership are already incentivising the push to vaccinate more of the population, including offering paid time off for employees to receive their jab and volunteer, as well as offering workspace for vaccination centres. Further information on this story can be found [here](#).

## Lincolnshire County Council's new grant funds open!

Lincolnshire County Council's four new grant funds for small businesses have been endorsed by councillors and are now live, beginning with the Business Recovery Fund which was the first to open for applications on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The grants include:

1. **Business Recovery Fund** - for small businesses who have not been able to access any other government grants to date.
  - Launches for applications from 12pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, until 11.59pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
  - Application criteria now available.
2. **Digital Voucher Fund** - supporting businesses in improving digitisation.
  - Expression of interest window will be open from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
  - Application criteria will be published on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March.
3. **Invest for the Future Grant** - to help contribute towards business expansion.
  - Expression of interest window will be open from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
  - Application criteria will be published on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
4. **Rural Business Grant** -for businesses and organisations with projects specifically in rural areas.
  - Expression of interest window will be open from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 until Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
  - Application criteria will be published on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

For more details on the grant schemes visit [here](#).

## Geographical transition for businesses

- The support that businesses in North and North East Lincolnshire have previously received from the Humber Growth Hub will be moving to the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
- The geographical overlap between the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and the Humber LEP is being removed. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 North and North East Lincolnshire will be part of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP only and no longer part of the Humber LEP.
- The advice and support for businesses will not change. In the majority of cases the existing business advisors will remain the same and we will advise where contacts do change. The current European Regional Development Fund programmes will continue to be delivered until the funding ends in June 2023.
- The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub offers free and impartial advice to businesses across Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland. The front door to business support services is through the [www.businesslincolnshire.com](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com) website.

- All business affected are invited to engage with the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub, the business support arm of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP.

More information to follow.

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## Food Sector Updates

### Fishing industry to receive £23 million Seafood Disruption Support Scheme

The UK Government has announced the opening of this scheme which is available to seafood exporting businesses across the UK that have experienced a verifiable loss in value of their seafood consignment as a result of disruption when exporting to the EU. The scheme will be open for applications until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Further information about eligibility and how to apply can be found [here](#).

### Greater Lincolnshire LEP Food Security Newsletter

The latest newsletter edition was published last week [here](#). This publication highlights the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone, the Greater Lincolnshire food sector in the news, workplace testing opportunities, LIAT skills boost and its new Chief Operating Director, the Great Taste Awards, the council's live business grants and funding opportunities, and post-Brexit EU trade updates.

The newsletter is shared with a growing list of food businesses and supply chains, labour providers, colleges and universities, councils, intermediaries, and facilitators. It is highly beneficial to sign up for this letter and for businesses to share this information with relevant contacts and networks in order to keep our food chains moving and to influence food policy and interventions. For more information, contact [Kate.Storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

### Invitation to the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone launch

Interested businesses and facilitators are invited to the soft-launch of the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, which includes a keynote webinar by Judith Batchelor, Head of Brand at Sainsburys. To register and engage in this ground-breaking opportunity, [CLICK HERE](#).

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## Logistics & Trade

### Covid testing for HGV and van drivers taking goods overseas

You must test negative for coronavirus before you travel from the UK to:

- [Denmark](#)
- [France](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Netherlands](#)

Check the [FCDO travel advice](#) for any country you are planning to enter. For more information, click [here](#).

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## Health & Care Sector

### Vulnerable individuals and health & care workers offered COVID-19 jab

Everyone who is most at risk from coronavirus has now been offered a vaccination, with more than 15 million jabs achieved in less than 10 weeks across the UK.

The most vulnerable members of the population, and those who care for them, have been offered a Covid-19 vaccine as the government target was met on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February. People in this group account for 88% of COVID-19 deaths. Over a quarter of UK adult population have been vaccinated with first dose. Further information can be found [here](#).

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## Education & Skills

### Mass testing for secondary pupils as all schools & colleges fully reopen from 8<sup>th</sup> March

Schools and colleges are to reopen to all pupils from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March with asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in place, as announced by the PM earlier this week.

The government has been clear that the return to face-to-face education is the national priority, as there has been significant and proven impact to the health and wellbeing of children and young people caused by being out of school. Further information can be found [here](#).

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## EU Transition

### Draft data adequacy decisions pave the way for continued free flow of data between the EU and the UK

The UK government has welcomed the European Commission's draft data adequacy decision, which recognises the UK's high data protections standards and sets out that the UK's standards are 'adequate'. Positive data adequacy decisions under both the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Law Enforcement Directive (LED) would allow for personal data to continue to flow freely from the European Union (EU) and wider European Economic Area (EEA) to the UK.

The UK now urges the EU to fulfil its declared commitment to complete the technical approval process swiftly, so that we have final data adequacy decisions as soon as possible. This will provide certainty for businesses. The 'bridging mechanism' will remain in place until June 30<sup>th</sup> or until the adequacy decisions come into effect, whichever is sooner.

### The Goods Vehicle Movement Service

This service is for traders, hauliers and carriers who use UK ports.

- **Guidance for hauliers** has been updated [here](#).
- **Guidance on registering** for the Goods Vehicle Movement Service has been updated with new information on who should register. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Get a goods movement reference:** Information about what you need to do to get a goods movement reference has been updated. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Check if a goods movement reference is valid:** Information about hauliers moving goods from the EU to the UK has been updated. For more information, click [here](#).

### European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) international road haulage permits

Guidance on permits to travel to or through ECMT member countries has been updated. Information about applying for short-term permits has also been updated; you can now apply for the rest of 2021. For more information, click [here](#).

## HMRC newsletter to help traders avoid some problems they may encounter when moving goods under transit

The most recent [HMRC newsletter](#) has been updated with information on French ports using the 'smart border' system. For more information, and to view recent editions of the newsletter, click [here](#).

## List of customs agents and fast parcel operators

The list of agents and operators who can help submit customs declarations has been updated. For more information, click [here](#).

## Useful contacts

A list of government helplines organised by theme and key actions for businesses has been published. To view this, click [here](#). Businesses in England should call 0800 998 1098

For continuous information, support, advice, and all things business-related visit [www.businesslincolnshire.com](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com)

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## Tools, Webinars & Events

### UN Climate Change Conference

The UK will host the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The [expression of Interest process](#) to apply to get involved in UK Government managed spaces at COP26 is open now until **Friday 5 March at 17:00hrs**. This includes opportunities such as hosting events, creative installations, and exhibition space. Find out more [here](#).

### Virtual Jobs Fair Returns for Employers and Job Seekers

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP's popular Online Jobs and Careers Fair returns this **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 10am until 1pm**, hosted by the MP for Boston and Skegness Matt Warman.

It's not too late for employers and organisations to register for their free exhibition stand on the website [here](#). Media coverage of the event has been cast across the region; read the Sleaford Standards' coverage [here](#).

### Free cyber security webinars

The National Cyber Security Centre is running a series of free cyber security webinars and talks in late February and March 2021. These events are aimed at UK businesses of all sizes, educational institutions, and charities. [Find out more and register here](#).

### Upcoming events

- **Getting Started with LinkedIn** - online course held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 11am-12pm. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **NBV Starting in Business** - 3 day online course starting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 9.30am-4.30pm. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Managing Financial Risks & International Trade Pay** - webinar held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2pm-3pm. Click [here](#) for more information.

To discover more upcoming events, webinars, and online courses, click [here](#) to visit the Business Lincolnshire calendar.

All [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) webinars and videos for organisations that trade with the EU can be found [here](#).

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## 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 on Twitter @ [LRF](#) @[GreaterLincsLEP](#) @[businesslincs](#)

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

<b>Shaun Gibbons</b> Chair South Holland DC <a href="mailto:shaun.gibbons@sholland.gov.uk">shaun.gibbons@sholland.gov.uk</a> 07870 157203	<b>Tony Crowden</b> Deputy Chair NHS <a href="mailto:tony.crowden@optum.com">tony.crowden@optum.com</a> 07342 034035	<b>Mark Stoneham</b> Lincolnshire County Council <a href="mailto:mark.stoneham@lincolnshire.gov.uk">mark.stoneham@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a> 07901 512504	<b>Julie Heath</b> West Lindsey DC <a href="mailto:julie.heath@west-lindsey.gov.uk">julie.heath@west-lindsey.gov.uk</a> 07775 026257	<b>Hannah Williams</b> North Kesteven DC <a href="mailto:hannah.williams@n-kesteven.gov.uk">hannah.williams@n-kesteven.gov.uk</a> 07500 102116	<b>Emma Staff</b> Boston Borough Council/ East Lindsey DC <a href="mailto:emma.staff@boston.gov.uk">emma.staff@boston.gov.uk</a> 07929 862487	<b>Kate Storey</b> Greater Lincolnshire LEP <a href="mailto:Kate.storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk">Kate.storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a> 07919 166416
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