



## LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

17 March 2021

### LRFBIZ V54 - ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

#### Coronavirus Headlines

##### Recognition week: 15 March

This week marks the anniversary of the first Covid patient being admitted to a Lincolnshire hospital. The United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust will be asking everyone to pause, reflect, and thank staff for the outstanding effort they have put in to keep Lincolnshire's residents safe, to keep our services running, and to support each other.

##### Restrictions changing from the 29 March

Further Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted on this date, however the guidance on 'Hands, Face, Space' remains firmly in place and travel should still be minimised wherever possible.

##### Social contact

- Outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.
- Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, and open-air swimming pools, will also be allowed to reopen.
- Formally organised outdoor sports will be allowed to run.

The 'Stay at Home' rule will end on the 29 March **BUT** many restrictions will remain in place. The advice remains as follows:

- You should continue to work from home if you can.
- You should minimise the number of journeys you make.
- If you have to travel, avoid travel at the busiest times and routes.
- Travel abroad will still be prohibited, other than for a small number of permitted reasons.
- Holidays abroad will not be allowed, given it will remain important to manage the risk of imported variants and protect the vaccination programme.
- The Government has launched a new taskforce to review global travel which will report on the 12<sup>th</sup> April.

The roadmap for easing Covid-19 restrictions can be found here: [COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021](#)

##### Lateral flow testing

Lateral flow tests continue to be available for those who are in a household, childcare or support bubble with a nursery, school or college staff member or pupil. These individuals are encouraged to get tested twice-weekly. Rapid lateral flow tests are for people without symptoms (asymptomatic). Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should [self-isolate](#) and [book a PCR test](#).

## Business and Economic Updates

### 48,000 businesses already registered to offer workplace testing

The workplace testing programme has been ramped up as 48,000 businesses have registered for free, regular, and rapid tests for their employees.

Regular, rapid testing will be a crucial tool to prevent outbreaks in the workplace as we cautiously ease restrictions, keeping employees safe and businesses open. A major expansion of the free programme now means all businesses can access workplace testing, and are encouraged to register their interest by 31 March. Further information can be found [here](#).



### Cropdesk launch Seasonaljobs available for recruiting seasonal fresh produce workers

Cropdesk is a software company with specific focus on the global fresh produce industry, founded by award-winning blueberry farmer David Trehane.

The platform SeasonalJobs was created when the pandemic took hold as a response to the high priority need for skilled seasonal workers within the fresh produce sector and runs via app with supporting website, and matches job seekers with labour users in the industry, providing employers with pre-screened, ready

to work candidates for all seasonal positions in a number of industries.

Seasonaljobs runs social media advertising campaigns to secure workers with exactly the right fit, focussing on industry requirements such as fitness level, experience, availability, and location.

Each employer-user, a “partner”, pays a fee of £100 per candidate on acceptance of a role. This enables them to post roles that they need filling and to be able to interview and select available workers. This fee supports the ongoing development of the app functionality and UX interface. There is no cost to the job seeker.

To book a demo or for more information for employers or seasonal job seekers, please access the Greater Lincolnshire LEP’s Twitter account [here](#) and quote #LEPSeasonalJobs when booking your free demo. If you would like to find out more, please visit the [website](#).

### Resilient Lincolnshire project

Part one of the Resilient Lincolnshire project is now available to view [here](#).

The panel summaries contain transcripts of the webinars on four themes - Resilience, Emotional, Responsible and Technology - completed at the end with key lessons extracted from the discussions.

### £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund opens for applications

Earlier this week, the SME Brexit Support Fund opened and smaller businesses can now apply for grants of up to £2,000 to help them adapt to new customs and tax rules when trading with the EU and enables traders to access practical support, including training for new customs, rules of origin and VAT processes. Further info available [here](#).

## Employers For Carers

Businesses can now access a free online resource called [Employers For Carers](#) which provides free resources and information to businesses and organisations in Lincolnshire around supporting employees with caring responsibilities. It is a well renowned resource backed by Carers UK.

## UK Community Renewal Fund guidance released

[Guidance](#) has been published on the new government Community Renewal Fund to include:

- assessment criteria,
- application form,
- technical note for lead authorities,
- technical note for project applicants and deliverers, and
- privacy notice

## New rules on business travel

Anyone planning to travel to the [EEA](#) or Switzerland for work or business purposes in the future should:

- Check whether you need to apply for a [visa, work permit or other documentation](#).
- Also check the destination country's websites for details on application requirements and processing times if you need to make an application, and apply sufficiently in advance of travel. If in doubt, apply as far in advance as possible.

Further information is available at the GOV.UK page on [visiting Europe](#)

## Government asks for views on COVID-19 certification

The Government is reviewing whether Covid-status certification could play a role in reopening our economy, reducing restrictions on social contact, and improving safety and is seeking views on the role of Covid-status certification in the UK's recovery from the pandemic, particularly from organisations and individuals with relevant expertise as well as those it would impact.

The Government has published a [call for evidence](#) to ensure that the review considers a broad range of interests and concerns. Further information can be found [here](#).

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## Sector Updates

### Humber investments

The Secretary of State has [recorded a message](#) specifically for Humber investments welcoming the recent Budget news.

### MAKE UK - First quarter economic results

The first quarter economic results from the manufacturing sector are now available and the full report can be [downloaded here](#). Key findings from the MAKEUK/BDO survey include:

- Output volumes are up, and UK orders are improving.
- Export orders decline, likely arising from business both in the UK and EU yet to settle into the new UK-EU trading arrangements.
- Employment and investment intentions remain negative though significantly better than last quarter, employment expected to turn positive in Q2.
- Expectations for next quarter more positive across all indicators.
- Prices improve but margins decline.
- Manufacturing growth forecast upgraded in 2021 to 3.9% from 2.7%.

Further information can be found on the MAKEUK website [here](#).

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## EU Transition

### Useful contacts

A list of government helplines for businesses has been published, organised by theme and key actions. 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)

### Revised timetable for the introduction of import border controls

A new timetable for introducing import border control processes will enable UK businesses to focus on their recovery from the COVID pandemic. The government will now introduce full border control processes, **six months later** than originally planned.

#### From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021:

- Pre-notification requirements will be required for products of animal origin, high risk food not of animal origin (HRFNAO) and certain animal by products.
- Health certificates will be required for products of animal origin and certain animal by-products.

For more information on importing or moving live animals, animal products and high-risk food and feed of animal origin, click [here](#). For more information on importing or moving fish to the UK, click [here](#). Guidance on importing animals has also been updated in “*Guidance for EU businesses exporting to the UK*” - click [here](#) for more information.

#### From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022:

- Safety and Security declarations for imported goods will be required.
- Physical SPS checks for products of animal origin, certain animal by-products, HRFNAO and high risk plants, will take place at Border Control Posts.
- Prenotification requirements and documentary checks, including phytosanitary certificates, will be introduced for low risk plants and plant products.
- Customs declarations on all goods will be required at the point of import, and businesses will no longer be able to use the deferred declaration scheme.

#### From 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022:

- Checks at Border Control Posts will take place on live animals, low risk plants and plant products.

Traders moving controlled goods into Great Britain will continue to be ineligible for the deferred customs declaration approach. They will therefore be required to complete a full customs declaration when the goods enter Great Britain. For more information on the announcement, click [here](#). For a step-by-step guide on importing goods into the UK, click [here](#).

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## Tools, Webinars & Events

### The Business Journey to Net Zero

SMEs in the North of England are invited to join the Department for Business webinar focused on practical solutions to achieve low-carbon goals, held on Friday 19 March. Limited places are available. Register [here](#).

## Cyber Aware Campaign

The National Cyber Security Centre have launched a self-assessment tool to help sole traders and micro businesses check how safe they are from cyber threats, and to give advice on areas of improvement. To use the [toolkit](#) and for more information, visit [CyberAware.gov.uk](http://CyberAware.gov.uk).

## Greater Lincolnshire LEP Online Jobs and Careers Fair

The next Online Jobs Fair will take place on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 10am-1pm** and will be hosted by Ruth Carver, chief executive of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, who will deliver the event's welcome talk. Visitors can attend the virtual fair for free by going to [www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk](http://www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk).

Employers, Greater Lincolnshire training providers, and support services are welcome to register as exhibitors **free of charge** [here](#).

## Upcoming events

- **Managing and Leading Staff: The Impact of the EU Exit** - webinar by Building Business Resilience, 22 March 2021, 1.30pm - 2.30pm. More information [here](#).
- **South Holland Virtual Network** - webinar by the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce, 25 March 2021, 12.30pm - 1.30pm. More information [here](#).
- **Effective International Supply Chain Management** - webinar by the Export Department, 30 March 2021, 2pm - 3pm. More information [here](#).

To discover more upcoming events, webinars, and online courses, click [here](#) to visit the Business Lincolnshire calendar. All [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) webinars and videos for organisations that trade with the EU can be found [here](#).

## 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						
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