



LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

31 March 2021

LRFBIZ V56 - ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

Coronavirus Headlines

Workplace testing programme -REGISTRATION EXTENDED TO 12 APRIL FOR 10+ EMPLOYEES

All employers will now be able to offer their employees free, rapid and regular testing that can be taken at home. Government has now made rapid home testing available for all businesses with over 10 employees who cannot offer on-site testing.

- Businesses must register interest by 12 April to access free tests
- Over 60,000 businesses already registered for regular and rapid tests for employees
- Programme extended to any business with over 10 employees

Businesses can [sign up](#) for free Covid-19 workplace asymptomatic testing with further info [here](#).

Changes from Monday 29 March

Some of the rules changed on 29 March. [Guidance](#) has been updated to include a summary of changes to the rules in England. From 29 March:

- You will be able to meet outdoors either in a group of 6 (from any number of households), or in a group of any size from up to 2 households (each household can include existing support bubbles, if eligible)
- You will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children

Reopening safely as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted

Full guidance on **reopening business and venues in England** can be found [here](#). Read the '[COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021](#)' for more information on the roadmap out of lockdown in England.

Further settings are permitted to open to include outdoor sports facilities and formally organised outdoor sport. Indoor facilities, such as changing rooms, should not be used at this time, although toilet facilities can be accessed. Businesses eligible to host childcare and supervised activities for children will be able to host all outdoor children's activities, and outdoor parent -and child groups for up to 15 people (not counting those aged under five).

You must stay outside when meeting others to reduce the spread of Covid-19

The public are being reminded they must stay outside when meeting others as part of the next step of easing Covid restrictions in a new film released and narrated by GP Dr Hilary Jones MBE.

- From 29 March, groups of 6 people, or 2 households, are allowed to meet outside
- Scientists and medics are urging the public not to be tempted to meet indoors as the risk of spreading the virus is significantly higher inside
- Public urged 'Let's take this next step safely' in new campaign

Further info [here](#).

Business and Economic Updates

Covid Restart Grant

The [Restart Grant](#) scheme supports businesses in the non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure, personal care, and accommodation sectors with a one-off grant, to reopen safely as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Grants available from 1 April 2021 but applications can be submitted in advance.

Geographical transition for businesses

The support that businesses in North and North East Lincolnshire will be moving to the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub this week from 1st April 2021.

The geographical overlap between the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and the Humber LEP is being removed. From 1st 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 and 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 website.

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

Working safely during Covid-19

[Guidance](#) has been updated with a new shorter format focusing on actions to make the workplace Covid-secure and Step 1 of the roadmap out of lockdown.

Restrictions on entering the Netherlands

From Tuesday 16 March, freight drivers do not need to take a coronavirus test if you are an HGV or van driver returning to the Netherlands after spending less than 48 hours in the UK. [Guidance](#) has been updated to include information on Covid-19 test timeframes for round-trips between the UK and the Netherlands.

Suspension of Trade Operations at Manston, Kent

From Sunday 21 March, all haulier processing operations, including Covid testing for hauliers, has been suspended at Manston Airport. If heading to the Port of Dover or Eurotunnel, drivers will be directed straight onto the M20. Free Covid testing for hauliers is still available at one of the many [Information and Advice sites](#), and Inland Border Facility checks will continue to be processed by Ashford Sevington, or one of the other sites [across the country](#). Hauliers are strongly encouraged to get a negative Covid-19 test, to use the Check an HGV is Ready to Cross the Border service and get a valid Kent Access Permit before arriving in Kent to minimise delays. Please also follow any traffic management signs.

Education, Employment & Skills

Education inspections in the summer term

Ofsted will inspect schools and further education & skills (FES) providers in the summer term to provide reassurance about how well children and learners are catching up, but it will not resume a full programme of graded inspections until September. Following extensive discussion with government and education leaders, Ofsted has confirmed that it will undertake on-site, lighter-touch inspections in the summer term and unlike full inspections, these visits will allow inspectors to assess how well

schools and FES providers are educating their learners and keeping them safe, but they will not result in a grade. **Read further info** [here](#).

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

Tools, Webinars & Events

+ TEAM LINCOLNSHIRE

INDUSTRIAL DECARBONISATION WEBINAR

NORTH & NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Join Team Lincolnshire, in partnership with Business Lincolnshire, at our next webinar dedicated to the Industrial Decarbonisation Webinar – North & North East Lincolnshire.

HUMBERZERO
THE UK'S GATEWAY PROJECT

Decarbonising Humber Industry

CO₂ capture

VPI Immingham

The liquid CO₂ is pumped deep underground into a CO₂ storage reservoir (porous rock)

Transportation to intermediate storage

Depleted oil and gas fields

THURS 1ST APRIL 2021
2PM - 3:30PM

WWW.TEAMLINCOLNSHIRE.COM

Join Team Lincolnshire, in partnership with Business Lincolnshire, at the next webinar dedicated to the **Industrial Decarbonisation Webinar** - North and North East Lincolnshire. This webinar will be addressing one of Greater Lincolnshire's most significant projects; Industrial Decarbonisation and is an opportunity to discover more about:

- The Humber Cluster Plan - a route to Net Zero
- Humber Zero - A large scale decarbonisation project backed by world scale partners to remove up to 8 million tonnes per annum of CO₂ from the Immingham industrial site by the mid-2020's.

You will also hear from North and North East Lincolnshire Council on how they are supporting these significant projects, together with an overview on the energy and renewable sectors in the region; followed by a panel discussion. For more information on the speakers please [visit the website](#).

Date: Thursday 1st April 2021/ Time: 2:00pm - 3:30PM

South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone Launch - watch on catch up

A recording of this event is now available to [watch on demand](#).

Many have already been in contact to express interest and learn more about the FEZ and the opportunity on offer. Contact tdowning@pygott-crone.com to arrange your meeting today.

Environmental Land Management Scheme

Two introduction sessions of the two national Tests for Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) within the Humberhead Levels and South Lincolnshire are available.

Humberhead Levels:

Introduction Wednesday 21 April 10am to Noon

South Lincolnshire Vision Workshops

Introduction Wednesday 14th April 10am to Noon

Upcoming events

- **APPRENTICESHIPS - A Route to your business success in 2021**- Webinar by the FSB. Thursday 1st April 2-3pm. Click [here](#) for more info.
- **Industrial Decarbonisation Webinar - North and North East Lincolnshire.** (See above)
- **QES Q1 Briefing.** Webinar by Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce. Tuesday 6th April 8am-9am. Click [here](#) for more info.

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