



## LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

8 April 2021

### LRFBIZ V57 - ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

#### Coronavirus Headlines

##### Workplace testing programme -registration extended to 12 April for 10+ employees

Free, rapid home testing available for all businesses with over 10 employees who cannot offer on-site testing. Businesses must register interest by 12 April and can [sign up](#) for free Covid-19 workplace asymptomatic testing with further info [here](#).

##### Employer testing duty

If you are an employer that requires staff to travel regularly across UK borders, you must take reasonable steps to facilitate your employees to take tests. Find out more [here](#).

##### Covid vaccination walk-in appointments for over 50s

People over the age of 50 who have not yet received their first covid vaccination are being offered the chance to attend a walk-in clinic at the Lincolnshire Showground Large Vaccination Centre on Thursday 8 April, between 8am and 5pm, without a pre-booked appointment.

The walk-in appointments do not need to be pre-booked. If you decide to attend, please bear in mind there is a separate GP vaccination service also running from the same site at Lincolnshire Showground, so if you are asked on arrival please state that you are attending a walk-in appointment at the NHS site, and bring your NHS number with you which can be found online [here](#). Keep watching for other walk in options locally which may become available.



##### Twice-weekly rapid testing being made available to all in England

Everyone in England, including those without symptoms, will be able to take a free rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) test twice a week. Updates will be made to the NHS COVID-19 app in England to coincide with the universal testing offer. Further info [here](#).

#### Business and Economic Updates

## Covid Restart Grants

The restart grants are available to non-essential retail businesses, and businesses in the hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care, and gym sectors. The rates that apply for the hospitality, accommodation and leisure businesses are:

- £8,000 for businesses with a rateable value of exactly £15,000
- £12,000 for businesses with a rateable value over £15,000
- £18,000 for businesses with a rateable value of exactly £51,000

These grants are coupled with £425 million of top-up funding for the ongoing Additional Restrictions Grant scheme for councils to distribute to businesses in particularly urgent need of additional support - these could be businesses who don't necessarily pay business rates such as tour operators, B&Bs, caterers, freelancers, and wedding service providers. Find out more [here](#). For detailed guidance, click [here](#).

## New Business Rates relief fund

A new Business Rates relief fund of £1.5 billion for businesses affected by COVID-19 outside the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors has been announced to provide an extra, targeted support package for businesses who have been unable to benefit from the existing £16 billion business relief packages. The £1.5 billion pot will be allocated to local authorities in England based on the stock of properties in the area whose sectors have been affected by COVID-19. Local Authorities will use their knowledge of local businesses and the local economy to make awards. Find out more [here](#).

## Recovery Loan Scheme

This scheme allows businesses to access loans from £25,000 to £10 million, as well as invoice and asset finance from £1,000. The government will provide an 80% guarantee for all loans and interest rates capped at 14.99%. Find out more [here](#).

## Workplace Guidance

[Working safety guidance](#) has been updated to include changes to national restrictions, including guidance in sectors such as:

- [The visitor economy](#) and [hotels and other guest accommodation](#).
- [Providers of grassroots sport and sport facilities](#).
- [Shops and branches](#).
- [Performing arts](#) and [Heritage locations](#).
- [Vehicles guidance](#)
- [Supported living services guidance](#)
- Care homes' free COVID-19 PPE provision for health and social workers has been [extended](#) to March 2022.

## NHS Test & Trace: Maintaining records of staff, customers, and visitors

[Guidance](#) has been updated to reflect the change in rules for when a group enters a venue. From 29 March 2021, every customer or visitor should be asked to scan the NHS QR code or provide their name and contact details, not just a lead member. You do not need to ask for contact details for those under the age of 16.

## Seasonal workers to receive free Covid-19 tests on farms

Employers of seasonal agricultural workers in the edible horticulture sector are [urged to register](#) for free workplace testing.

## Haulier Advice

From April 6, hauliers arriving in England from abroad will need to take a COVID-19 test if they are staying for more than 2 days. They need to take the first test within the first 2 days, then further tests every 3 days. This will apply to drivers and crews of HGVs and drivers of vans and other light goods vehicles. It applies to both UK-based and non-UK hauliers. Find out more [here](#).

Other guidance updates include:

- Safer practice for international hauliers: [Guidance](#) has been updated on the 'Stay in cab' requirement for international hauliers in England.
- Haulier advice site locations: [Guidance](#) has been updated to reflect that Cannock Roadking, Markham Moor, and Pont Abraham sites are now closed.
- Driver CPC card extension for lorry, bus and coach drivers now expired: [Guidance](#) updated 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](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com)

## Tools, Webinars & Events

### Upcoming events

- **From Farmers Market to Export Market** - webinar by Select Lincolnshire, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 10am-11am. Click [here](#) for more info.
- **ChamberConnect: How to Manage Redundancies** - webinar by Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 10am-11am. Click [here](#) for more info.
- **Simplifying Social Media for Success** - interactive masterclass by Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 10am-11.30am. 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](http://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						
<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@westlindsey.gov.uk">julie.heath@westlindsey.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