



LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

14 April 2021

LRFBIZ V58 - ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

Coronavirus Headlines

Operation Unlock

Lincolnshire Police has offered reassurance that they will support the safe lifting of some of the current lockdown restrictions as new rules come into place this week. More information can be found [here](#).

Public Health Resources

New assets and information for a range of sectors on the easing of lockdown restrictions are now available on the PHE Campaign Resource Centre. Follow the links below to find out more.

- [New Road Map Assets - Spring Response 2021](#)
- [Universal Testing](#)
- [University Students](#)
- [Back to School](#)
- [Hands. Face. Space. Fresh Air](#)

Twice-weekly rapid testing available to all in England

Everyone in England, including those without symptoms, is encouraged 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 information [here](#).

Business and Economic Updates

Visit Lincs Coast Promotion

Visit Lincs Coast has released the first in a series of promotional videos in preparation to welcome back visitors as the road map begins to unfold and as part of the BID's new digital marketing approach. View the 2 minute film [here](#) and please share across your networks and digital platforms to help promote the video and raise the profile of Visit Lincs Coast.

Financial Support

A new government-backed loan scheme was launched on Tuesday 6 April, to provide additional finance for businesses most in need.

- Loans will include 80% government guarantee and interest rate cap.
- The [Recovery Loan Scheme](#) will ensure businesses continue to benefit from Government-guaranteed finance throughout 2021-opened until 31 December 2021.
- The Recovery Loan Scheme can be used as an additional loan on top of support received from the emergency schemes - such as the Bounce Back Loan Scheme and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme - put into place last year.

- From 6 April, businesses - ranging from coffee shops, and restaurants, to hairdressers and gyms - can access loans varying in size from £25,000, up to a maximum of £10 million. Invoice and asset finance is available from £1,000.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement is [here](#). For more information on what other financial support you can get for your business, click [here](#)

UK Gigabit Broadband Voucher for rural businesses and households

The UK Gigabit Broadband Voucher will enable businesses and homes in the hardest-to-reach parts of the UK to benefit from lightning-fast next generation broadband. The voucher provides micro grants of up to £1,500 for households and £3,500 for businesses in rural areas (with current speeds of less than 100Mbps) to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections.

To check postcode eligibility and information or additional support which may be available, click [here](#)

Updated Reopening Guidance

The guidance on which businesses can reopen has been updated for Step 2. Find out more [here](#).

NHS Roadmap Poster

The NHS have published a new poster outlining the restrictions associated at this stage of the roadmap. This is a great resource for staff and customers who will be returning to businesses - click [here](#) to view.

Guidance for the Self-Employed

The Government has produced two guidance documents for self-employed people who are currently [getting less work](#) or [no work at all](#).

The guidance looks at the options and eligibility of:

- Claiming SIESS
- Claiming Test and Trace Support
- Claiming New Style Employment and Support Allowance
- Claiming New Style Jobseeker's Allowance
- Claiming Universal Credit
- Claiming Pension Credit
- Looking for other work

Updated Information for farmers, landowners, and rural businesses

[Guidance](#) updated with information about deadlines for CS applications, Basic Payment scheme (BPS) applications, and CS and ES revenue claims.

- The deadline for submitting applications, without penalty, for BPS 2021 is **midnight on 17 May 2021**.
- The deadline for supporting documents is **midnight on 11 June 2021**. No late penalties will be applied to supporting documents that are received between 17 May and 11 June.
- Applicants should use the online [Rural Payments service](#) as this is the quickest and safest method to use. However, supporting documents will need to be [posted](#) to Rural Payments Agency, such as the Young and new farmer form or BP5 continuation form.

Advice for seasonal agricultural workers coming to England, and their employers

[Guidance](#) has been updated with new requirements on testing. From 6 April, new arrivals must take tests on days 2, 5 and 8 after arrival in England even if tests on days 2 and 5 from a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or rapid lateral flow test return negative results.

Guidance for Companies House customers

[Guidance](#) has been updated with information that the automatic extensions granted by the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act have come to an end. Some companies can still [apply for a 3-month extension](#) but Companies that have already had their accounts deadline extended may not be eligible,

as the law only allows a maximum filing period of 12 months. [Check your filing deadlines on Companies House service \(CHS\)](#)

Global Travel Taskforce sets out framework to safely reopen international travel

The Global Travel Taskforce has set out its approach to safely restarting international travel, with recommendations including the launch of a new traffic light system and 'green watchlist', and the introduction of travel certification. [Click here](#) for further information.

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

Greater Lincolnshire Online Jobs and Careers Fair

The next in the series of online jobs and careers fairs will return virtually on **Wednesday 28 April**, hosted by LEP Board Director and Director of Ambitions Personnel Recruitment, Mandy Watson.

The event will run live from **10am-1pm** on the day, with the website accessible to visitors and employers 24/7, hosting a range of job vacancies, 1:1 chat features, employer information, and advice and FAQs.

Visit the website [here](#). Organisations can register for a free virtual stand [here](#).

Get Into Lifeguarding: free course and qualification

Get Into are now recruiting for a one week free lifeguarding course and qualification. The programme is open to anyone aged 18-30 years and looking to learn new skills and gain valuable work experience.

A taster day will be held on Tuesday 27 April, with the course running from Tuesday 4 May to Tuesday 11 May 2021 at Butlins, Skegness. Limited places available. To join the course or find out more, email Chloe.Hornblow@princes-trust.org.uk or call 07852 492198.

Upcoming events

- **Fund Your Business - Finance & Funding for Innovative SMEs** - webinar by the University of Nottingham, Thursday 15th April, 1pm-3pm. Click [here](#) for more info.
- **Lincolnshire Question Time - Reviving Lincolnshire's Business Economy** - interactive session by FSB Lincolnshire, Monday 19th April, 2pm-3pm. Click [here](#) for more info.
- **Powerful PR - How to Use PR Successfully for your Business** - interactive masterclass by Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub, Tuesday 20th 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 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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