



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 3 July 2020



OLS Introduction

The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) is a joint unit between the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

This bulletin aims to keep the life sciences sector up to date on the latest guidance whilst the UK is in the transition period and during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, providing you with information from Government to help your members and networks prepare.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email Anisha.Visram@beis.gov.uk

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's speech on the economy, Dudley, 30 June 2020

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has made a [speech on the economy](#) in Dudley, announcing a "New Deal" which puts jobs and infrastructure at the centre of the government's economic growth strategy.

Local action to tackle coronavirus in Leicester

The Health Secretary [announced](#) in Parliament on 29 June 2020 that given the growing outbreak of coronavirus in Leicester, Leicester-specific measures will apply to the city of [Leicester, and the surrounding conurbation](#). These local measures will be kept under review and will not be kept in place any longer than is necessary. UK government will review whether any measures can be eased in 2 weeks' time. More information is [available here](#).

Re-opening of businesses and venues from 4 July

All businesses and venues in England can reopen from 4 July, except for those [detailed here](#).

[Guidance](#) for higher education providers in England on when and how to reopen their campuses and buildings has been updated with information on full opening from 2020, social distancing, demographic, library, social gathering, performing arts and student accommodation guidance.

Travel Corridor Exemption list: 14-day isolation lifted for lower risk countries

Passengers returning to or visiting England, from countries or territories detailed in the [travel corridor exemption list](#), will no longer need to self-isolate on arrival. This comes into effect on 10 July 2020. Find out more [here](#).



Events

Government departments are hosting a series of free webinars to help businesses understand the support available. Keep up to date with all the latest available webinars [here](#), and watch past HMRC videos [here](#).

Various dates – [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – How to make a claim](#)

Tuesday 7 July – [Coronavirus COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme](#)

Various dates – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Self-Employment Income Support Scheme \(SEISS\)](#)

Various dates – HMRC webinar on changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme how employers will be affected, flexible furloughing, key dates and support available. Sign up [here](#).

The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill will reform the insolvency and corporate governance framework in light of the COVID emergency. BEIS has planned webinars to explain different aspects of this new legislation:

- **7 July, 10:30** - To find out how the new rules on moratoriums, restructuring and winding-up petitions will affect companies and their associated parties, register to join a BEIS Insolvency session at 10.30am on 7th July. You can [register here](#).



Workforce

NEW – The Government has developed a tool to help employees in England easily assess if they can return to work. Employers can share this tool with employees to aid discussion on how employees can return to work safely. Find out more [here](#).

UPDATED - [Safer travel guidance for passengers](#) in England has been updated with information on social distancing.

UPDATED - Businesses can now bring furloughed employees back to work on a part time basis. Find out more [here](#).

UPDATED - Guidance on the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme has been [updated with new examples](#) for how a business could be adversely affected by coronavirus and with information on how different circumstances affect the scheme.



Support to business

NEW - Organisations can now apply to access GP patient data for COVID-19 planning and research purposes. To support the response to the coronavirus outbreak, NHS Digital has been legally directed to collect and analyse healthcare information about patients, including from their GP record, for the duration of the coronavirus emergency period.

The [GPES data for pandemic planning and research \(COVID-19\)](#), supported by the BMA, RCGP and the National Data Guardian, will collect a defined set of information from GP practices in England on a fortnightly basis. This data will be held securely by NHS Digital.

Organisations should now apply for this data directly, rather than approaching GP practices or GP IT system suppliers. Please note: this data can only be used to support the nationwide response to coronavirus through planning and research and will not be released for any other purpose.

Find out how to apply [here](#). If you have any questions about the process, please contact NHS Digital's Data Access Request Service (DARS) on 0300 303 5678 or email enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk.

NEW - Find out how to pay all or some of your grant back if you've overclaimed through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Find out more [here](#).

NEW - Applying for a moratorium under the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020. Guidance on how to apply for breathing space to consider a rescue plan for your company, under measures to support companies and other types of business in financial difficulty. Find out more [here](#).

[Guidance](#) has been published for private companies and other company types and [information](#) on how the measures introduced in the act will affect your filings at Companies House.

NEW - Government unveils £200 million package to help innovative businesses bounce back. The Sustainable Innovation Fund will help companies across all parts of the UK recovering from the impact of coronavirus keep their cutting-edge projects and ideas alive. Businesses can apply for support through the Sustainable Innovation Fund by [visiting the Innovate UK website](#). Find out more [here](#).

UPDATED - Changes to the Future Fund's eligibility criteria will mean that UK companies who have participated in highly selective accelerator programmes and were required, as part of that programme, to have parent companies outside of the UK will now be able to apply for investment. Find out more [here](#).

NEW - Support for university research and innovation during coronavirus. A new research funding scheme opens this autumn to cover up to 80% of a university's income losses from a decline in international students; and around £280 million in government funding will be made available to enable universities to continue their cutting-edge work, such as research into antibiotics resistance and the effects of coronavirus on society. Find out more [here](#).

UPDATED - Guidance has been updated as you no longer need to apply for an export licence to export personal protective equipment (PPE). Find out more [here](#).

NEW - The temporary scrapping of VAT on PPE has been extended until the end of October. Please find more information [here](#).

UPDATED - The VAT payments deferral scheme ended on 30 June 2020 as previously set out. More information is available [here](#).

MHRA updates

UPDATED – Guidance on the regulatory status of equipment being used to help prevent COVID-19 has been updated to include explanations about the regulations around face coverings. Please find more information [here](#).



Useful Links

- [Gov.uk/transition](#) provides a central hub of resources for the transition period
- You can sign up to email alerts about the transition period on GOV.UK at this [link](#).
- Sign up for Home Office email updates about developments on the status of EU citizens in the UK after we leave the EU and the next steps for EU citizens in the UK at this [link](#).
- Access the 'Check How to Export Goods' tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.
- Click [here](#) for more information and advice on exporting.
- Click [here](#) for updated information on the Covid-19 response from the Department for Health and Social Care and Public Health England.
- Click [here](#) for a list of Business Representative Organisations and Trade Associations you can speak with to get advice.
- Specific information for businesses and employers in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#) is available. In England, [Growth Hubs](#) can advise on local and UK Government business support.
- COVID 19 key contact details:
 - General offers of help from industry: gcfccovid19enquiries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk, or visit [this](#) webpage.
 - To offer your support producing ventilators please contact the Business Support Helpline for England on 0300 456 3565 or ventilator.support@beis.gov.uk.
 - If you have already offered to assist on the ventilators project but not received a reply, please contact existing.ventilators@dhsc.gov.uk.
 - Share the impact COVID-19 is having on your organisation with intel@beis.gov.uk
 - To provide feedback on MHRA engagement please contact engagement@mhra.gov.uk
 - To call the Business Support Helpline in England please dial **FREEPHONE 0800 998 1098**, Scotland 0300 303 0660, Business Wales 0330 060 300 and Invest Northern Ireland 0800 181 4422