



# Office for Life Sciences

## Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 11 September 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 [Sonia.Davies@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk](mailto:Sonia.Davies@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk)

### **New measures to suppress the virus and keep the number of infections down**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has made a statement on new measures to suppress the virus and keep the number of infections down. [These measures](#) apply to England – but there may be different rules if you operate in an area under local lockdown and you should check those rules [here](#). If you are in [Wales](#), [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#), different rules may apply.

Please find Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock oral statement to parliament updating on new social distancing rules [here](#).

### **Travel corridors**

A more targeted approach to travel corridors has been introduced by separating some islands from mainland countries. Find out more [here](#). The travel corridor list of countries and territories from where you can travel to England and may not have to self-isolate is available [here](#). Countries and territories can be taken off or added to this travel corridor list at any time.

### **UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement**

The UK has today secured a free trade agreement with Japan, which will increase trade with Japan by an estimated £15.2 billion. More information on the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement can be found [here](#).

### **UK Government invests in Covid research at St Andrews University**

UK Government is funding a project at St Andrews University to test different surfaces and coatings for their effectiveness in killing the Covid-19 virus. Please 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](#).

**Thursday 17 September** – [Coronavirus COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme](#)

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

**Various dates** – Extension to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and flexible furloughing webinar. Register [here](#).

**8 October** – ABHI Virtual IVDR Conference. In the virtual conference ABHI will review how best to embed the requirements of IVDR into your organisation, taking into account key commercial considerations including product development and market access. Please find out more information and register [here](#).



## **Workforce**

**UPDATED** – [Guidance](#) for frontier workers who want to enter the UK from 1 January 2021 has been updated. From 1 January 2021 you'll need to apply for a frontier worker permit to enter the UK as a frontier worker

**UPDATED** – Guidance on the Kickstart scheme. A Kickstart Scheme application must be for a minimum of 30 job placements. If a single employer cannot provide this many job placements, they can: Join a group of other employers, nominating a representative for the group to submit the application or register their interest with existing representatives, such as local authorities, chambers of commerce or trade bodies. You can contact your [local or national Kickstart Scheme employer contact](#) for help getting a representative.



## **Support to business**

**NEW** – Pay less or no duty on goods you store, process, repair or temporarily use: [Find out](#) about customs special procedures that enable you to suspend, pay less or no duty on goods you import or export.

**NEW** – The government has published guidance for employers and third-party healthcare providers on voluntary testing in the workplace to ensure all new private testing programmes are as reliable and effective as possible and developed in accordance with legal obligations and best practice. Please find more information [here](#).

**NEW** – Premises and venues across England must have a system in place to record contact details of their customers, visitors and staff in the latest move to break the chains of transmission of coronavirus. Further details can be found [here](#).

**UPDATED** – Safer working guidance has been updated to include details on social gatherings of more than 6 people, and mandatory test and trace requirements for factories, plants, warehouses, labs and research facilities. Please find more information [here](#).

**NEW** – Businesses in England required to close due to local lockdowns or targeted restrictions will now be able to receive grants worth up to £1,500 every three weeks. Please find more information [here](#).

**NEW** – Temporary measures to suspend voluntary strike off action will be lifted from 10 September 2020. Further details can be found [here](#).



### **Regulation**

**NEW** – Guidance on qualified person responsible for pharmacovigilance (QPPV) including pharmacovigilance system master files (PSMF) from 1 January 2021 has been published. Please find more information [here](#).

**UPDATED** – Guidance on how to comply with the EU's REACH chemical regulations when using, making, selling or importing chemicals in the EU has been [updated](#) to provide businesses with more information on what they'll need to do to prepare for 1 January 2021.

**UPDATED** – Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS): You must continue to use TRACES to notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for imports into the UK from non-EU countries until 1 January 2021. More information [here](#).



### **Useful Links**

- [Gov.uk/transition](https://www.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:existing.ventilators@dhsc.gov.uk).
- Share the impact COVID-19 is having on your organisation with [intel@beis.gov.uk](mailto:intel@beis.gov.uk)
- To provide feedback on MHRA engagement please contact [engagement@mhra.gov.uk](mailto: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