



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 2 October 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 as we approach the end of 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



News

NEW – There are less than 100 days to go until the United Kingdom leaves the Single Market and the Customs Union and businesses, citizens and Government need to prepare. On Wednesday 23 September, The Chancellor of the Duchy Lancaster made a [statement](#) to the House of Commons on preparations for the end of the Transition Period. As part of these preparations the Government has [published](#) the Reasonable Worst-Case Scenario for potential disruption to freight travelling between Great Britain and the European Union at the end of the transition period.

NEW – By law, staff and customers of retail settings are now required to wear a face covering, unless they have an exemption. Please find more information [here](#).

UPDATED – **Turkey, Poland, Bonaire, St Eustatius** and **Saba** have been removed from the travel corridor exempt list. If you arrive in England from these destinations from 4am on Saturday 3 October you will need to self-isolate. 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](#).



Transition Guidance

NEW – New guidance on supplying medicines to Northern Ireland from 1 January 2021. Goods placed on the market in the European Union or the United Kingdom before the end of the transition period may continue to circulate between these two markets from 1 January 2021. Article 41 of the EU Withdrawal Agreement enables these batches to remain available for sale or supply between Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the EU after 1 January 2021 without additional regulatory checks. Please find more information [here](#).

NEW – Guidance on how the MHRA will manage orphan medicinal products from 1 January 2021 in Great Britain (GB). Please find more information [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](#), watch past HMRC videos [here](#) and find videos to help you learn more about trading with the EU from 1 January [here](#).

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](#).

Tuesday 27 October – Life Sciences Business Support Webinar - The UK has left the EU and is leaving the EU single market and customs union. The end of the transition period means businesses should take action now to prepare for guaranteed changes and new rules from January 2021. To support business preparations the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is hosting free webinars to help you check the new rules and understand the actions to take. Please find the full schedule and sign up for live sessions [here](#).

MHRA webinars

From 1 January 2021, the MHRA will be the UK's standalone medicines and medical devices regulator. Stakeholders need to get ready for new rules from 1 January 2021. The agency has now published guidance which will apply following the end of the transition period.

To help stakeholders understand the detail of the guidance and to ask any questions, the agency is running a series of free webinars, please click [here](#) for more detail on the webinar dates and topics.

[Register](#) for free webinars to learn more about what you need to do to export animals, fish and high risk foods not of animal origin from 1 January 2021.



Workforce

NEW – Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant extension: The grant extension is for self-employed individuals who are currently eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and are actively continuing to trade but are facing reduced demand due to coronavirus. Find out more on who can claim and what the grant extension covers [here](#). HMRC will provide full details about claiming in due course.

UPDATED – guidance on critical workers who can access schools or education settings, please find more information [here](#).

NEW – Extra resources announced to support delivery of remote education, including 100,000 additional devices and increased peer to peer support for teachers. Please find more information [here](#).

UPDATED – Guidance on coronavirus testing – students on clinical placements have been added to list of essential workers and those prioritised for testing (England only). Please find more information [here](#).



Business Support

NEW – The Local Restrictions Support Grant supports businesses that were open as usual, providing services in person to customers from their business premises, but which were then required to close for at least 3 weeks due to local lockdown restrictions imposed by government. It is for businesses that pay business rates on their premises. Local councils may at their discretion also provide funding for businesses that don't pay business rates. Find out more [here](#).

UPDATED – Businesses who [deferred VAT](#) due from 20 March to 30 June 2020 will now have the option to pay in smaller payments over a longer period. You will need to opt-in to the scheme.

UPDATED – The Guidance for businesses and organisations on how to recognise, contain and report incidents of coronavirus (COVID-19) action cards have been updated, please find more information [here](#).

NEW – The government's strategy for preparing for a second wave of COVID-19 covering supply and logistics for distribution of PPE has been published [here](#).

NEW – The Government has launched a consultation aimed at giving Small Business Commissioner more power to support businesses and resolve late payment issues. Please find more information [here](#).

UPDATED – COVID guidance for the charity sector: the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020, allows extension of provisions to allow holding AGM meetings for the Charity sector online from 30 Sep to 30 Dec 2020. Please find 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, or visit [this](#) webpage.
 - 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