



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 29 May 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

New public health measures for all UK arrivals at the UK border

New measures at the UK border to guard against a second wave of coronavirus infections were announced by the Home Secretary on Friday 22 May. You can view the full press notice [here](#), and further guidance [here](#). **These measures are due to come into effect on 8 June 2020** and include 14 days self-isolation for anyone entering the UK, bar a short list of exemptions. The full list of exemptions is available on [GOV.UK](#).

These measures will be subject to review every three weeks to ensure they are in line with the latest scientific evidence and remain effective and necessary.

Please find a summary of the border restrictions in place for travelling to the UK and to France [here](#).

UK Government launches NHS Test and Trace service

From 28 May anyone who tests positive for coronavirus in England will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and will need to share information about their recent interactions. People identified as having been in close contact with someone who has a positive test must stay at home for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms, to stop unknowingly spreading the virus. You can find further guidance [here](#).

There is specific guidance on the NHS test and trace service for employers, business, workers and the self-employed which can be found [here](#).

[Test and Protect](#) in Scotland has also been launched. [Test, Trace, Protect](#) in Wales will launch on 1 June 2020 and contact tracing in [Northern Ireland](#) is currently up and running.



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](#).

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

Various dates – [Coronavirus COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme](#)

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

Make your workplace COVID-secure:

- **Monday 1 June**, 3pm: [Labs and research facilities](#) – Guidance for people who run indoor labs and research facilities and similar environments.
- **Tuesday 2 June**, 11am: [Offices and contact centres](#) – Guidance for people who run offices, contact centres and similar indoor environments.
- **Tuesday 2 June**, 3pm: [Homes](#) – Guidance for people working in, visiting or delivering to home environments as well as their employers.

You can also review recorded webinars:

- for topics that cover support from HMRC, [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for international trade, [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax, [watch recorded webinars](#)



Workforce

UPDATED – The UK Government's Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme is now live, please find more information and how to apply [here](#).

UPDATED - [Check](#) which employees you can put on furlough and claim for through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. This page has been updated with information that clarifies that eligibility depends on employment on or after certain dates.

UPDATED – Guidance on how to Work out 80% of your employees' wages to claim through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been updated to include employees who have received top ups or discretionary payments in the claim period, can be found [here](#).

UPDATED – Guidance on how to claim for 80% of your employee's wages plus any employer National Insurance and pension contributions if you have put them on furlough because of COVID-19. The page has been updated to explain that that employers will be asked to give the amounts separately for the NICs, pension and wages they are claiming for, and employee authorised salary deductions can be made from grant payments. Please find more information [here](#).



Support to business

NEW – Government to offer antibody tests to all health and social care staff in England. Further information can be found [here](#).

NEW – The UK Government announced on 25 May a roadmap for the reopening of a broader range of shops starting from next month. From 15 June the Government intends to allow all other retailers, including shops, to reopen if the Government's five tests are met and they follow the COVID-19 secure guidelines. You can read the full statement [here](#).

Updated guidance for the retail sector has been published alongside this announcement, detailing the measures retailers should take to meet the necessary social distancing and hygiene standards. You can find the guidance [here](#).

NEW – New funding to protect and increase transport services, level up infrastructure and regenerate local economies after the COVID-19 outbreak has been announced. Find out more [here](#).

NEW – A new London Transition Board will co-ordinate London's response as it emerges from the lockdown and begins to reopen its economy while controlling the virus. Find out more [here](#).

UPDATED – Version 2 of the Local Authority Discretionary Fund guidance has been published, businesses who are eligible for the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) are now eligible to apply for the scheme. Please find more information [here](#).

UPDATED – HMRC have extended the time limit for notifying of a decision to opt to tax land and buildings, to 90 days from the date the decision to opt was made. This applies to decisions made between 15 February and 30 June 2020. Find out more [here](#).

MHRA updates

NEW – Remdesivir has received a positive scientific opinion under the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) [Early Access to Medicines Scheme](#) (EAMS) in the UK. This will allow remdesivir to be used in the treatment of adults and adolescents hospitalised with severe COVID-19 infection who meet additional clinical criteria. Please see the [scientific opinion](#) and [press release](#) for more information.

UPDATED – MHRA have clarified some details about how to report to us on the regulatory flexibilities you have used, please find more information [here](#).

UPDATED – Guidance on COVID-19 testing kits has been updated, including new content on performance evaluation process for test kits and on the temporary stopping of the sale of COVID-19 antibody tests for members of the public until the regulatory and safety concerns are resolved. Please find more information [here](#).

UPDATED – The list of information required for an application for exemption from devices regulations during the COVID-19 outbreak has been updated. Please find more information [here](#).

UPDATED – Guidance on exceptional GMP flexibilities for medicines manufacturers during the COVID-19 outbreak has been updated to include the email address to use to report any difficulties, and a link to reporting the use of regulatory flexibilities. Please find more information [here](#).

UPDATED – The good clinical practice dossier for clinical trials spreadsheet has been updated, 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.
 - 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