



# Office for Life Sciences

## Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 14 August 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](mailto:Anisha.Visram@beis.gov.uk)

### **Travel corridors**

There have been changes to the list of countries and territories from where you can travel to England and may not have to self-isolate, please find more information [here](#).

### **New NHS Test and Trace app pilot**

Yesterday (Thursday 13 August), a trial of the new NHS Test and Trace app was launched for residents of the Isle of Wight and NHS Volunteer Responders across England, to be quickly followed by residents in the London borough of Newham.

Designed with user privacy in mind, it tracks the virus, not people, so every app user is entirely anonymous.

The app will work hand in hand with the contact tracing system to improve containment of the virus so that we can all get back to the things we love. It is being trialled ahead of national rollout. Watch this [video about the app](#).

Please find the weekly statistics for NHS Test and Trace (England) and coronavirus testing (UK) [here](#), and the business plan for the NHS Test and Trace service in England [here](#).

### **Further easing of restrictions for businesses in England**

Close contact services can reopen in England from 15 August 2020. This does not apply to businesses based in regions that are in a local lockdown, see the [updated guidance](#) for further information. Socially distanced indoor and outdoor performances can take place in line with guidance, see the updated guidance for [further information](#).

The [piloting of a small number of sporting events to test the safe return of spectators](#) will resume from August 15 with a view to reopening competition venues for sports fans, with social distancing measures in place from 1 October

Please find a full list of business that can reopen from 15 August [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 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](#).



## **Workforce**

**NEW** – A new guide for employers about qualification results in England this summer is available [here](#).

**UPDATED** – Guidance on calculating how much you can claim using the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has [been updated](#) with a new section on how to calculate your claim for fixed pay employees who have worked enough overtime (in the tax year 2019 to 2020) to have a significant impact on the amount you need to claim.



## **Support to business**

**UPDATED** – Although the UK has left the EU businesses will continue to get any EU funding they've already been awarded. This includes funding they are due to get after 31 December 2020. Businesses can still apply for EU funding under the current spending framework. The deadline will depend on which fund a business applied to. Some funds will still take applications under the current framework during 2021. It has not yet been decided what funding UK organisations will be able to apply for after the spending framework ends. Find out more [here](#).

**UPDATED** – The list of customs agents and fast parcel operators who can help submit customs declarations from 1 January 2021 has been updated [here](#).

**UPDATED** – At the end of the transition period, the eCommerce Directive will no longer apply to the UK. Businesses should begin to prepare for these changes now. Further details on what to do from 1 January 2021 can be found [here](#).

**NEW** – From 10 October 2020, Companies House will resume the process to strike off companies they believe are no longer carrying on business or in operation. From this date, they will resume the [process to remove a company from the register](#) if there's reasonable cause to believe it's no longer carrying on business or in operation. Find out more [here](#).



## Regulation

**NEW** – Guidance for industry on MHRA’s expectations for return to UK on-site inspections. MHRA are planning to resume on-site UK risk based GxP inspections in September. Please find more information [here](#).

**UPDATED** – Guidance on medical devices given exceptional use authorisations during COVID-19 has been updated to include 3 new authorisations issued by MHRA to allow supply of these products to the UK Market for a 6-month period. 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](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