



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 21 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

Public encouraged to register for COVID-19 vaccines trials

Over 100,000 people have volunteered to take part in [COVID-19 vaccine trials](#), helping to speed up efforts to discover a safe and effective vaccine. UK researchers urge more volunteers across all groups to sign-up, especially the over 65s and those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. Find out more about registering [here](#).

Test and Trace app trials

Following the successful launch of the trial of the new NHS Test and Trace app to the Isle of Wight and NHS Volunteer Responders, today (21/08) the residents in the London borough of Newham become the next area to participate. Please find more information [here](#).

New National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP)

Government has announced the creation of the NIHP. The NIHP will bring together Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace, as well as the analytical capability of the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) under a single leadership team. This is the first step towards becoming a single organisation, focused on tackling COVID-19 and protecting the nation's health.

This has already started under the interim leadership of Baroness Dido Harding, with the full organisation being formalised and operating from Spring 2021.

Further information can be found [here](#) and Matt Hancock's full speech on the Future of Public Health can be found [here](#).

Travel Corridors

Austria, Croatia and Trinidad and Tobago will be removed from the travel corridor list from 4am Saturday 22 August. People returning will need to self-isolate for two weeks. Portugal is to be added to the travel corridor list at 4am Saturday 22 August. Find out more [here](#).

Call for evidence: Integrated Review

The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy will define the Government's vision for the UK's role in the world over the next decade. Its goal is to set the long-term strategic aims of our international policy and national security. The Review will cover all aspects of international and national security policy, such as defence, diplomacy, development and national resilience. Please find further details along with the "call for evidence" questions, a response template and email address to return the evidence to Government [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](#).

Tuesday 25 August– [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 – The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme claim service is now open. If you're eligible for the second and final grant, and your business has been [adversely affected](#) on or after 14 July 2020, you can [make a claim](#) on or before 19 October 2020. You can claim for the second grant even if you did not make a claim for the first grant.

NEW – Guidance for employers on self-isolating after returning to the UK. A person's employment rights will depend on their [employment status](#) and specific circumstances. Please check the [guidance](#) on returning to the UK and [guidance](#) for workers and employers.

UPDATED – Check examples to help you calculate your employee's wages, National Insurance contributions and pension contributions if you're claiming through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for September and October. Find details [here](#).

UPDATED – Factsheet about Access to Work and how it can help overcome barriers to starting or keeping a job if an employee has a disability or long-term health condition. The claiming process during coronavirus guidance has been updated. Find more information [here](#) and the press release [here](#). The Access to Work guide for employers can be found [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