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11.08.21

Build UK has published **guidance** for employers on developing and implementing a vaccination policy for staff. Build UK stresses that it is early days and that the guidance is likely to be revised over time.

06.08.21

New <u>Regulations</u> move France to the "amber list", Austria, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to the "green list", Georgia, Réunion, Mayotte and Mexico to the "red list", and remove Bahrain, India, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates from the "red list".

19.07.21

New <u>Regulations</u> exempt travellers returning to England from abroad, if they have been fully vaccinated in the UK with an approved vaccine, from the need to self-isolate when returning from an "amber list" country.

Bulgaria, Croatia, Hong Kong and Taiwan are being moved down from the amber to the green list, the Balearic Islands and British Virgin Islands are being moved up from the green to the amber list, and Cuba, Indonesia, Myanmar and Sierra Leone are being moved up from the amber to the red list.

18.07.21

New Regulations in England revoke various coronavirus rules and restrictions enacted in 2020, such as the requirements not to meet in groups larger than a certain size, to wear face coverings, and for businesses serving the public on their premises to collect customers' contact details.

For more information please get in touch with your usual CMS contact.

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15.07.21

New <u>Regulations</u> in England will exempt, from 16 August 2021, the following people from needing to self-isolate after coming into contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus:

- a person who, more than 14 days ago, received a complete course of a coronavirus vaccination
- a person who can provide evidence that for clinical reasons they should not be vaccinated
- a child.

Build UK and the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) **announce** that the CLC's Site Operating Procedures will, though no longer reflecting the latest government guidance, remain available as a reference document from Monday 19 July.

14.07.21

Although almost all legal restrictions will be lifted in England on 19 July 2021 when the country moves into step 4, the Government expects businesses to continue to be cautious and take appropriate steps to minimise the risks of coronavirus. It has published guidance for employers in different sectors, including the **construction industry**. The Government says: "In the long term, we expect that businesses will need to take fewer precautions to manage the risk of COVID-19. We will continue to keep our guidance under review and will remove advice once it's safe to do so."

12.07.21

The Government has published **general guidance**, for both the public and businesses, on the behaviour that is recommended to minimise the spread of coronavirus as England moves into step 4, a period with few legal restrictions. The Government recommends "a gradual return over the summer" to workplaces, and that "people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport". Under general health and safety law, "employers still have a legal duty to manage risks to those affected by their business. The way to do this is to carry out a health and safety risk assessment, including the risk of COVID-19, and to take reasonable steps to mitigate the risks" identified. Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms should "self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test, even if symptoms are mild".

22.06.21

The Government has published summaries of the steps involved when travelling **abroad from England**, or to **England from abroad**.

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21.06.21

The NHS service for demonstrating Covid vaccination status has been named the "NHS COVID Pass". The certificate is always produced in English and it is this version that must be shown when travelling abroad. Translations are offered, but only to assist certificate holders to understand the content of their certificate. France is one country that already requires proof of vaccination for non-essential travel.

18.06.21

The concessionary rules on right-to-work checks, which have been repeatedly extended and were previously due to end on 20 May 2021, are now planned to end on 31 August 2021. This extension is, as before, aligned with the delays in easing lockdown restrictions.

17.05.21

Non-essential international travel is no longer illegal. A new red/amber/green traffic light system has been **introduced** for international travel. Full details are set out in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel and Operator Liability) (England) Regulations 2021, which replaces the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020.

The **guidance** on jobs that qualify for travel exemptions has been updated to cover green list country requirements and exemptions.

All of England has been moved from a "step 2 area" to a "step 3 area" from 17 May 2021, in line with the Government's four-step plan, by the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps and Other Provisions) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

13.05.21

BuildUK has <u>said</u> that, while the easing of coronavirus restrictions as England moves into step 3 is relevant to domestic activities, "there will be minimal impact on construction activities, which should continue to implement [BuildUK's] Site Operating Procedures".

The Health and Safety Executive is conducting **spot checks** on all types of businesses, in all areas, to check that the measures put in place to manage the risk from coronavirus are in line with current guidance. This includes businesses that have continued to operate throughout the pandemic, those that have recently reopened and those due to open soon. Businesses are expected to: have a COVID-19 risk assessment; maintain social distancing; maintain high standards of hygiene; maintain good levels of ventilation; support workers who need to work from home; and look after vulnerable workers.

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12.05.21

The concessionary rules on right-to-work checks, previously due to end on 16 May 2021, will **now end** on 20 June 2021. This extension "is aligned with the easing of lockdown restrictions and social distancing measures", so there may be a further extension if the government decides to defer the easing of some social distancing measures.

10.05.21

From 17 May 2021, England will move from step 2 to step 3 in the UK Government's "four-step plan" for lifting coronavirus restrictions. This will allow eating indoors at restaurants and bars, meeting indoors with friends, leisure hotel stays and similar previously prohibited activities, but people "should continue to work from home if [they] can".

07.05.21

To help facilitate international travel, the UK Government will be **introducing** "proof of vaccination" from 17 May 2021, available either electronically throughv the NHS App, or as a letter that can be requested by calling 119. The proof will be available to anyone who has received the full course of a COVID-19 vaccine. For any country that accepts the proof it will help to reduce the bureaucracy involved in international travel although, currently, no country accepts proof of vaccination status as an alternative to testing and/or isolation.

Full international travel **guidance** is published on the GOV.UK website.

20.04.21

The requirement for HGV drivers to obtain a "Kent Access Permit" before entering Kent from other parts of England has been removed. Covid test requirements continue to apply.

The Home Office has announced that the temporary changes to right-to-work checks introduced in response to the coronavirus pandemic will end on 16 May 2021. From 17 May, employers must check a job applicant's original documents, or their right to work on the GOV.UK website. The Home Office has confirmed that employers will not need to carry out retrospective checks on employees verified under the concessionary rules between 30 March 2020 and 16 May 2021.

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19.04.21

Free Lateral Flow (LFD) Covid home test kits are now widely available in England,. A **search portal** has been launched, making it easy to find pharmacies offering test kits. LFD tests are for people without Covid symptoms.

India will be added to the UK
Government's travel "red list" from
23 April 2021. Only British and Irish
nationals, and long-term visa holders,
will be allowed to enter the UK from
India. They will need to stay for 10 days,
at their own expense, in a governmentapproved quarantine hotel.

16.04.21

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2021 comes into force. Until 1 January 2022, it allows temporary outdoor moveable structures to be created in the grounds of eating and drinking establishments as a "General Permitted Development" that does not require planning permission.

12.04.21

The NHS has updated its **guidance** on Covid testing and now stipulates that anyone who receives a positive result from a lateral flow test, taken either at home or at a test site, must get a confirmatory PCR test. Build UK has accordingly updated its **guide** on workplace testing and its **flowchart** on the steps a business must take when a worker needs to self-isolate.

The UK Government has introduced **Regulations** moving all of England from a "step 1" area into a "step 2" area – allowing relaxations such as the reopening of non-essential shops – in accordance with its four-step plan.

09.04.21

The Global Travel Taskforce published its report. The Taskforce's "overarching principle is... to facilitate the safe, sustainable and robust return of international travel". The emphasis on a "sustainable" return strongly suggests that measures to support international travel will not be taken where there is a risk of them needing to be reversed. There will be no immediate changes to international travel restrictions.

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05.04.21

With England moving as planned on 12 April 2021 into Step 2 of the UK Government's four-step coronavirus restrictions, the Government has published interim updates on four "roadmap reviews", reporting in summer 2021, which are considering: (1) COVID-status certification; (2) international travel; (3) large events; (4) social distancing.

Free twice-weekly rapid lateral flow (LFD) coronavirus tests will be available to everyone in England from 9 April 2021.

29.03.21

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021 (the "roadmap regulations come into force largely replacing the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020. Their effect is to continue the parts of those 2020 regulations that are to continue to apply during 2021. They also set out steps 1 to 3 of the UK Government's "four-step plan" for lifting coronavirus restrictions (step 4 being no restrictions).

The legislation will need to be consulted to determine the applicable coronavirus restrictions in particular parts of England. When it comes into effect on 29 March 2021, all areas of England will be in step 1.

21.03.21

The UK Government has introduced a search portal for English lateral flow test sites: https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site

16.03.21

HGV and van drivers returning to the Netherlands after spending less than 48 hours in the UK no longer need to take a coronavirus test in order to leave the UK.

The Department of Health and Social Care has published on GOV.UK a list of providers, including prices, offering "day 2" and "day 8" tests to international arrivals.

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15.03.21

The UK Government is seeking views on the potential role of testing and/or vaccination data ("Covid-status certification") in reopening the economy and reducing social contact restrictions. The Government has committed to making a decision on certification before the final stage of the four-stage lockdown easing plan (which will happen no earlier than 21 June 2021).

08.03.21

The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Face Coverings) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2021 have introduced a requirement to produce a "travel declaration form" when travelling internationally, subject to exceptions for certain groups such as transit passengers and road haulage workers. Entering a port of departure to travel internationally without a completed form is a criminal offence.

06.03.21

Free lateral flow coronavirus test kits for companies registered in England have been extended to all companies registered in England, including those with fewer than 50 employees.

To benefit, companies must still register by 31 March 2021 (see 23.02.21).

03.03.21

The 2021 Budget extended the Coronavirus Job Support Scheme through to 30 September 2021. Businesses still relying on the furlough scheme will need to contribute 10% of salaries in July 2021 and 20% in August and September 2021.

Following the 2021 Budget, more extensive capital allowances will be introduced between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2023 to the benefit of capital-intensive industries such as construction, allowing companies to cut their tax bill by 25p for every £1 invested in new equipment.

Following the 2021 Budget, a "recovery loan scheme", giving access to government-backed loans of up to £10m, will open for applications on 6 April 2021. All companies will be eligible and the Government will guarantee 80% of these loans. Companies that accessed previous pandemic support schemes will be able to apply for these new loans.

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02.03.21

The UK Government introduced the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) (Amendment) (No. 9) Regulations 2021.

Regulation 9 delays, until 26 April 2021, the point at which private providers can provide tests to international arrivals required to obtain a "managed self-isolation package".

23.02.21

Where VAT payments due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 have been deferred and are still outstanding, businesses can join the "VAT deferral new payment scheme", open for registration until 21 June 2021. The scheme lets businesses pay the deferred VAT in 11 instalments. If businesses do not wish to join the scheme, they must repay deferred VAT by 31 March 2021.

Companies in England employing at least 50 people who cannot work from home can, order free lateral flow coronavirus test kits for their employees. Companies must register by 31 March 2021, and the scheme will last until at least 30 June 2021.

Build UK has published a "Workplace COVID-19 Testing" guide with further information. Businesses with fewer than 50 workers are advised to use community testing and consult local authority websites for details.

16.02.21

During the last week, additional <u>surge</u> <u>testing</u> has been deployed to targeted areas within Norfolk, Southampton and Woking along with Middlesbrough, Walsall and Hampshire. People living in the targeted areas are strongly encouraged to take a COVID-19 test, regardless of whether they are showing symptoms.

15.02.21

Border Force have been granted powers to issue fixed penalty notices to individuals suspected of lying on their passenger locator form and, where necessary, detain them for up to 3 hours.

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11.02.21

Transport for London has used data from Build UK members to **map out** hotspots on the network. Construction sites are advised to stagger shifts and coordinate with neighbouring sites to reduce the number of workers around these hotspots at the busiest times.

Build UK has provided an update to its guide to workers on travelling to work.

09.02.21

In the past week, <u>additional</u> surge testing has been deployed to targeted areas within Lambeth, Manchester Worcestershire, Sefton, Bristol and South Gloucestershire with all people in the areas strongly encouraged to take a coronavirus test.

All passengers travelling to England will be required to take mandated coronavirus tests on day 2 and day 8 of quarantine.

Fines will be issued ranging from £1,000 to £10,000 or prosecution and up to 10 years in prison for arrivals who breach the travel restrictions including fail to quarantine in a designated hotel, fails to take a mandatory test or attempt to conceal that they have travelled in a "red list" country.

08.02.21

Businesses will have greater flexibility to pay back government-backed **Bounce Back Loans**, tailoring payments to individual circumstances. Pay as You Grow will be available to over 1.4 million businesses and includes the options such as delaying all repayments for a further six months.

07.02.21

There has been a new **drive** to increase workplace testing in sectors open during lockdown, to detect coronavirus in people who are not showing symptoms. Government departments have been tasked with ensuring that targeted, rapid testing is set up in all key workplaces. The criteria for joining the workplace testing programme has been reduced to businesses with more than 50 employees.

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05.02.21

Managed Quarantine Facilities will come into effect from 15 February 2021 so anyone travelling to the UK from a country on the UK's travel ban list will be required to quarantine in a government-approved facility for a period of 10 days.

01.02.21

Additional surge testing and sequencing has been made available in locations where the COVID-19 variant first identified in South Africa has been found, including postcodes EN10, W7, N17 and CR4. Every person over 16 in these locations has been strongly encouraged to take a COVID test this week, regardless of whether they show symptoms.

28.01.21

From 1pm on Friday 29 January,

passengers who have been in or

transited through the United Arab

Emirates, Burundi and Rwanda in the last
10 days are banned from entering the

UK. British, Irish and third country

nationals with residence rights in the UK

who arrive after 4am must self-isolate

immediately along with their household

and cannot be released from self-isolation

through Test to Release.

27.01.21

New <u>travel restrictions</u> have been introduced. Those wishing to travel out of the UK must declare a reason for travel and anyone who does not have a valid reason for travel will be directed home and may face a fine. Those seeking to enter the UK from countries where the Government have imposed international travel bans will be required to isolate for 10 days in hotels. Police are also carrying out more physical checks at addresses to make sure people are self-isolating after they have arrived in the UK.

Companies House have temporarily paused their voluntary and compulsory strike off processes for one month from 21 January until 21 February 2021.

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26.01.21

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until 30 April 2021. If claiming for periods starting on or after 1 December 2020, HMRC will publish details of the claim on GOV.UK monthly.

24.01.21

The Government has **reported** that businesses and public sector organisations are joining a government scheme to test workers without symptoms who cannot work from home.

18.01.21

From 18 January 2021 at 4am, all travel corridors with the UK will be **suspended** so all international arrival to the UK from any country must now take a predeparture test and self-isolate for 10 days. The new measures will be reviewed on 15 February 2021. Certain exemptions no longer apply, such as busines directors bringing jobs and investment to the UK.

Hauliers need a negative COVID-19 test result before travelling to France, Denmark and the Netherlands.

BUILD UK have produced a guide to "Travelling in London during Coronavirus" for construction workers including practical advice on getting to a place of work.

14.01.21

Entry to UK has been banned for passengers who have been in or transited through destinations across South America, Portugal, Panama and Cape Verde from 4am 15 January 2021. British, Irish and third country nationals with residence rights in the UK who arrive after 4am will have to self-isolate immediately along with their household and cannot be released from self-isolation through Test to Release.

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11.01.21

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy issued a <u>letter</u> to everyone working in the UK's construction sector. This letter highlights that firms and tradespeople in the construction sector and its supply chain should continue to operate during this national lockdown. Those in the construction industry are able to travel or stay in accommodation to get to work or for the purposes of carrying out work.

08.01.21

From 4am Monday 18 January 2021, all **international arrivals**, including UK nationals, will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test taken up to 72 hours prior to departure for England. Passengers will be subject to an immediate £500 fine if they fail to comply. A limited number of exemptions apply, including hauliers, crews and those travelling from countries without the infrastructure to deliver the tests.

07.01.21

COVID-19 testing requirements for hauliers leaving the UK for France to have proof of an authorised negative test, conducted within 72 hours of travelling to the border to cross over, is continuing following a decision by the French government.

The CLC published <u>Site Operating</u>

<u>Procedures – Version 7</u>. This includes updated guidance on self-isolation, shielding and the removal of requirement to display a QR code in site canteens.

05.01.21

The <u>Chancellor</u> announced one-off top up grants for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses worth up to £9,000 per property. A £594 million discretionary fund was also made available to support other impacted businesses.

Drivers of HGVs carrying certain types of dangerous goods, including explosives and polymerizing substances, must get tested for COVID-19 before arriving in Kent.

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04.01.21

The Government announced a **national lockdown** will come into force on 6 January 2021 with people instructed to stay at home. People are only allowed to leave their homes for limited reasons including going to work if they cannot reasonably do so from home.

30.12.20

The Government reviewed the <u>tier</u> <u>allocations</u> across England including moving many areas up into Tier 3 or Tier 4 from the beginning of 31 December 2020.

29.12.20

The <u>Trade Credit Reinsurance Scheme</u> has been extended to 30 June 2021 (previously 31 December 2020).

24.12.20

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy issued a **letter** to everyone working in the UK's construction sector. Despite Tier 4 restrictions being imposed in additional towns and cities throughout England, firms and tradespeople in the construction sector and its supply chain (including merchants, suppliers and product manufacturers) can continue to operate in Tier 4. Where it is essential to travel between tiers to get to work or for the purposes of carrying out work, people working in the sectors are able to do so.

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23.12.20

The Government issued **advice** for pregnant employees on risk assessments in the workplace and occupational health during the coronavirus pandemic.

22.12.20

An agreement was reached to reopen the UK-French border to allow accompanied freight services and some passenger services to resume. Rail, air and sea services resumed from 23 December, with all people travelling from the UK to France required to show proof of a negative Coronavirus test taken within the previous 72 hours. All lorry drivers, irrespective of nationality, will require a lateral flow test.

21.12.20

Countries have restricted from travel from the UK due to the new COVID-19 variant and the Government advises checking the Government's **travel advice page** for advice regarding specific destinations.

19.12.20

A new <u>Tier 4</u> was introduced for England. People should not enter or leave Tier 4 areas. Where people cannot work from home, they should still travel to work. Non-essential retail, indoor leisure and personal care sectors must close. The Christmas bubble policy will no longer apply in Tier 4. For elsewhere, Christmas bubbles can continue with up to three households able to meet, but only for one day on Christmas Day.

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17.12.20

The Government reviewed the <u>tier</u> <u>allocations</u> across England. London, parts of Essex and parts of Hertfordshire moved into Tier 3 on 16 December 2020. The other changes will be implemented from 00:01 on 19 December 2020 and include Bristol moving from Tier 3 to Tier 2.

16.12.20

Tariffs have been suspended on a wide range of goods in the fight against COVID-19 including face masks, gloves and other protective equipment. This suspension is planned to last for a year from 1 January 2021, subject to regular reviews.

14.12.20

The self-isolation period on arrival in England from places not included on the travel corridor exempt list has been reduced from 14 days to 10 days.

10.12.20

From 10 December, the NHS COVID-19 app will allow those who have been instructed by the app to isolate, and are eligible, to claim the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

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08.12.20

There are now **monthly deadlines** for submitting claims under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

04.12.20

Business directors bringing 'significant economic benefit' to the UK have been added to the list of jobs that qualify for travel exemptions, meaning they do not need to self-isolate on arrival in the UK. Senior executives will only be exempt if the busi-ness activity requires their physical presence and cannot be done remotely. To be classed as bringing 'significant economic benefit', the work must have a greater than 50% chance of:

- Creating or preserving at least 50
 UK-based jobs in either an existing
 UK-based business with at least 50
 employees or a new UK business
 within 1 year of the date of their
 arrival in the UK; or
- Purchasing goods or services from a
 UK based business with at least 50
 employees the order must be worth
 at least £100 million, or the order must
 be likely to create or preserve 50 or
 more jobs in that business.

02.12.20

The Government has updated its <u>Safer</u> <u>travel guidance</u> following the new local restriction tiers. Across all tiers, people should walk or cycle where possible and avoid car sharing with anyone outside their household or support bubble.

28.11.20

Construction Minister <u>Nadhim Zahawi</u> has been appointed to oversee the rollout of the new coronavirus vaccine. He will also maintain his business brief.

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24.11.20

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations have agreed to allow up to three households to form a 'Christmas bubble' from December 23 to December 27. During this period, individuals will be allowed to travel between tiers and across the UK without restrictions to meet their bubble.

Passengers arriving into England from countries not included on the Government's travel corridor list will have the option to take a test after 5 days of self-isolation. A negative result will release them from the need to isolate. Tests will be at the cost of the passenger.

23.11.20

The Prime Minister announced the government's **COVID Winter Plan**. National restrictions end on 2 December, with England returning to toughened local tiers. Shops, gyms, personal care and the leisure section will reopen. In tier 1, people will be encouraged to minimize travel and work from home where possible. In tier 3, people should avoid travelling to other parts of the UK, including for overnight stays other than where necessary, such as for work. Tiering allocations will be reviewed every 14 days and tiering regulations will expire in law at the end of March.

20.11.20

Public Health England, the Health and Safety Executive and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine have issued a consensus statement on the best approach to reduce occupation risk for workers including those of ethnic minority groups. The statement recommends implementing existing guidance, workplace procedures and systems to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 exposure. The statement adds that actions targeted at the entire workforce may help reduce the risk of stigmatization and opportunity inequalities at work. Where some staff may be at greater risk, such as due to factors such as age or sex, the statement recommends that individual discussions should take place as part of a wider workplace risk management strategy.

13.11.20

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy published a **letter** to those working in the construction sector and its supply chain. The letter reiterates the need for the supply chain to remain open throughout lockdown and thanks everyone in the sector for "making a hugely valued and critical contribution" to the country's recovery.

Grants of £2.2 billion are to be distributed to business across England by councils. The Local Restrictions Support Grants are for business which have had to close or have been severely impacted by local restriction. Additional Restrictions Grants are provided by councils on a discretionary basis. The money is being transferred to councils in England on 13 November and business can expect to receive money covering the 4-week period of national restrictions in the coming days.

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10.11.20

Employers can claim back up to two weeks of Statutory Sick Pay under the Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay
Rebate Scheme for employees who are unable to work because they have been advised by letter to shield because they are clinically extremely vulnerable and at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus.

08.11.20

The **Government** announced that the exemption for non-UK resident freight drivers has been removed so those who have travelled from or through Denmark in the last 14 days can no longer enter the UK. Passenger planes and ships travelling directly from Denmark, and accompanied freight, will no longer be able to land or dock at English ports.

05.11.20

Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced that the <u>Coronavirus Job Retention</u>

<u>Scheme</u> (CJRS) has been extended until the end of March 2021, with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked.

As CJRS is being extended, it was announced that the Job Retention Bonus will not be paid in February and a retention incentive will be redeployed "at the appropriate time".

03.11.20

The Government published a Message to the Housing Industry making clear that house building and its supply chains can continue during the new national restrictions if this is done in line with public health guidance. Construction and other site works can go to work and home repairs and maintenance can also continue.

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02.11.20

The Government has announced increased support under the third instalment of the UK-wide Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, with people receiving 80% of average trading profits for November. Payments will also be made more quickly with the claims window moving to 30 November from 14 December.

31.10.20

The <u>Prime Minister</u> announced <u>new national</u> <u>restrictions</u> which will apply to England from 5 November 2020 until 2 December 2020.

The Government is taking the following action:

- Requiring people to stay at home;
- Preventing gathering with people you do not live with; and
- Closing certain businesses and venues.

Limited exceptions to the above are available under the new national restrictions. For example, construction workplaces should remain open.

The Government has announced month extension to the <u>Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</u> where furloughed employees can receive 80% of their current salary for hours not worked (maximum of £2,500). Additional financial support has also been confirmed including grants of up to £3,000 per month for business premises forced to close in England (*Local Restrictions Support Grant*).

29.10.20

The Government has **updated** its guidance to state that the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme and coronavirus Bounce Bank loan schemes are open for applications until 30 November 2020.

28.10.20

Employers who are seeking to claim back up to 2 weeks of Statutory Sick Pay under the Coronavirus Statutory
Sick Pay Rebate Scheme can now ask the employee to provide a 'shielding note' or letter from doctor or health authority advising them to shield because they are at high risk or severe illness from coronavirus.

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22.10.20

The Government announced increased financial support for businesses and workers. Employer contributions under the Job Support Scheme will decrease to 5% from 33% and the minimum hours requirement will drop to 20% from 33%. The Government will increase its contributions to 61.67% of wages for hours not worked up to £1541.75 per month. Business grants will be expanded to cover businesses, primarily in the hospitality, accommodation and leisure sectors, in high-alert level areas. Grants for the self-employed will be doubled to 40% of previous earnings.

20.10.20

The CLC published **Site Operating Procedures – Version 6**. Changes include:

- The CLC statement on The Use of Face Covering
- Updated guidance on shielding, selfisolate, testing and what to do if a worker develops COVID-19 symptoms or has to self-isolate
- Confirmation that canteens serving food must display an NHS QR Code
- Revised wording to reflect that social distancing is no longer exceptional and that in some key areas the Government has published more detailed guidance or updated terminology.

12.10.20

The Prime Minister set out a new three-tier local COVID alert system. The Medium alert level consists of the national measures such as the Rule of Six. The High alert level will aim to prevent household to household transmission by preventing all mixing between households or support bubbles indoors. The Very High alert level will include prohibiting social mixing indoors and in private gardens with people advised not to travel in or out of these areas.

09.10.20

The Government announced that the **Job Support Scheme** will be expanded. The Government will pay two thirds of each employees' salary, up to a maximum of £2,100 a month, for business legally required to close their premises due to coronavirus restrictions. The scheme will begin on 1 November and be available for six months.

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08.10.20

Companies House issued a reminder to file company accounts online to avoid delays created due to reduced numbers of people in the office able to process paper documents.

02.10.20

The Government has published **guidance** for employers to check whether they are eligible to claim the Job Retention Bonus, a one-off taxable payment of £1,000 for each eligible employee that an employer has furloughed and kept continuously employed until at least 31 January 2021. Employers will be able to claim the bonus between 15 February and 31 March 2021, after they submit PAYE information for the period to 5 February 2021, and details of the online claim service will be made available by the end of January.

29.09.20

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) recommended that face coverings are worn where workers on site are not required to wear Respiratory Protective Equipment and their workplace is an enclosed space, where social distancing is not always possible and they come into contact with others they do not normally meet.

Government guidance also required that face coverings must be worn in site canteens expect when seated at a table to eat or drink. Canteens must also create and display an official NHS QR code poster following the launch of the NHS COVID-19 app.

28.09.20

From today people in England were required by <u>law</u> to self-isolate if they test positive or are contract by NHS Test and Trace. Those on lower incomes who cannot work from home and have lost income as a result will be eligible for a new £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

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24.09.20

NHS COVID-19 app released by the Government.

The <u>Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a Relevant Place) (England) Regulations 2020</u> came into effect stating that face coverings and visors should be worn in close contact services.

Rishi Sunak outlined the **Winter Economy Plan**. From 1 November 2020 for 6 months, the Government will contribute towards the wages of employees who are working fewer than normal hours, paying one third of their salary for hours not worked, with employers paying another one third. The Government is extending the Self Employment Income Support Scheme Grant, provided to those trading but with reduced demand. Business who deferred their VAT bills will be able to pay in 11 interest-free payments during the 2021-2022 financial year. Bounce Back Loans will be extended from six to ten years with interest-only periods of up to six months and payments holidays available. Applications for the Government's coronavirus loans will be extended until the end of November.

From 1 October 2020, employers can only claim 60% of a furloughed employee's wages under the **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**. Employers will have to contribute the remaining 20% to ensure employees continue to receive at least 80% of their wages, up to a maximum of £2,500. Employers will also have to pay National Insurance and pension contributions. The scheme will end on 31 October 2020.

22.09.20

The Government announced **further measures** including guidance stating
certain businesses must close between
10pm and 5am from 24 September. From
28 September, business and organization
face stricter rules to make their premises
COVID Secure, including a wide range of
leisure venues and close contact services
subject to fines of up to £10,000 for
repeated breaches. Office workers who
can work effectively from home should
do so over the winter.

14.09.20

Innovative transport start-ups with a focus on decarbonisation or COVID-19 recovery can bid for a share of over 21£1 million in Department for Transport funding from 14 September 2020 as part of the Transport-Technology Research and Innovation Grants.

10.09.20

Companies House lifted temporary measures to suspend voluntary strike off action, with the process resuming from 10 September for companies that have applied to be struck off the register. The compulsory strike off process will resume on 10 October.

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09.09.20

The **Government** announced that from 14 September, people from other household cannot socialise in groups of more than 6 indoors or outdoors. Education and work settings are unaffected.

From 18 September, certain businesses must have a system to collect NHS Test and Trace data and keep this for 21 days. Core COVID-19 Secure requirements will be mandated for hospitality businesses, and egregious breaches enforced.

01.09.20

Employers could now only claim 70% of a furloughed employee's wages under the **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**. Employers must contribute the remaining 10% to ensure employees receive at least 80% of wages, up to a maximum of £2,500, and employers must pay National Insurance and pension contributions.

The **Government** announced it would pay people on low incomes, in areas with high rates of COVID-19, who need to self-isolate and cannot work from home. Payments of up to £182 will be made to people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and their contacts, with the scheme starting in Blackburn, Darwen, Pendle and Oldham.

21.08.20

The Government set up an Acceleration Unit to speed up the delivery of major transport projects and tackle delays in infrastructure projects.

19.08.20

Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced selfemployed construction workers can now apply for taxable grants under the **second stage** of the UK Government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). Those eligible for the scheme may receive a grant worth up to £6,750 or 70 per cent of their average monthly trading profits. Anyone whose self-employed business has been adversely affected by Coronavirus since 14th July is eligible for the second round, with claimants needing to have had trading profits of no more than £50,000.

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14.08.20

CLC published **guidance** on the use of face coverings in construction during COVID-19. CLC proposed that employers make available face coverings as a minimum where workers are not required to wear PPE for their specific task and their workplace meets all of the following criteria:

- an enclosed space;
- where social distancing isn't always possible; and
- where they come into contact with others they do not normally meet.

11.08.20

Plaster and some other key building materials continue to be affected by **supply shortages**, with ready availability unlikely to be re-established until mid-to-late September, according to the head of the Builders Merchants Federation (BMF).

06.08.20

The Government published its **Planning** for the Future white paper, setting out its proposals to reform the planning system in England to become much more user-friendly and adaptable to the changing needs of the economy. The consultation, which is open for 12 weeks, includes a streamlined application process, a new national levy and homes to be 'zero carbon ready', and will close on Thursday 29 October 2020.

01.08.20

Public Health England published an **action card** for construction detailing the steps to follow when informed of more than one confirmed case.

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22.07.20

The Government published <u>guidance on</u>
<u>extending construction working hours</u>
introduced in the Business and Planning

Act. Companies are now able to request extended and flexible site working hours through a fast-track application process, with Local Authorities having 14 calendar days to make a decision otherwise the revised working hours will be deemed to have been consented to.

21.07.20

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) published a <u>Cost Assessment Toolkit</u> to help the industry assess and forecast the cost implications of disruption due to coronavirus, in order to make more informed investment decisions.

20.07.20

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) stopped publishing RIDDOR statistics relating to the coronavirus over concerns about verifying the data. COVID-19 became a reportable disease under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) in April, but the regulator has not released any data on it since early May. The HSE said it suspended its release of RIDDOR report numbers due to "challenges in verifying the data", adding that it is working hard to make the numbers available again.

15.07.20

The Government published **guidance** on Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): Construction and other outdoor work includes a section on assisting the NHS Test and Trace service, which states that companies should keep a temporary record of staff shift patterns and visitors to sites for 21 days.

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14.07.20

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) **published new guidance** on amending contracts to cater for coronavirus disruption. The document sets out options for adjusting standard JCT and NEC contracts to reflect the impact of the pandemic on project delivery and costs, with the aim of ensuring agreed changes are future-proof. The new guidance document includes template amendments to the JCT Design & Build Contract 2016 as well as the NEC 3 & 4 Engineering & Construction Contracts.

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Matt Hancock announced that face coverings will
become compulsory in shops and supermarkets
in England from 24 July 2020. The Construction
Leadership Council (CLC) is reviewing the position
for the construction sector and whether any changes
will be required to the Site Operating Procedures.

13.07.20

Construction companies could now register their interest for the industry's new Talent Retention Scheme ahead of its launch later this month. Developed by the CLC in partnership with Government, the free to use scheme will match workers at risk of redundancy with businesses seeking new staff.

08.07.20

Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced that businesses will be able to claim £1,000 per employee for every worker brought back from furlough and kept in work for at least three months. To qualify, workers must be paid at least £520 per month on average when they are brought back and be continuously employed from November to the end of January. Sunak said the new initiative was designed to "reward and incentivise" businesses that retain staff once the Jobs Retention Scheme ends in October.

07.07.20

A government initiative to share data between contractors, clients and the supply chain in a bid to drive efficiency on transport projects was launched. The Transport Infrastructure Efficiency Strategy Living Lab is a partnership between the UK Government, its agency Innovate UK and firms including Kier and Costain.

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03.07.20

Build UK **announced** that firms working in areas hit by local lockdowns should follow site-safety measures put in place prior to the easing of the national lockdown.

Transport for London (TfL) published a **toolkit** for the construction sector setting out the latest travel advice for the workforce on sites across London. Employers are being asked to help by:

- Encouraging workers to walk or cycle all or part of their journey and providing lockers, showers and storage
- Changing operating hours or staggering shifts to avoid the busiest times on the network (05:45-08:15 and 16:00-17:30) and ensuring any shifts starting and finishing around these times are allocated to workers who can walk or cycle
- Sharing with workers the specific travel advice for areas of concentrated construction, including Vauxhall/Nine Elms, Westminster, City of London, Canary Wharf and Stratford
- Reducing and retiming goods and services to and from site to avoid peak times.

01.07.20

The <u>Site Operating Procedures were</u> <u>updated</u> by the CLC to reflect the latest Government guidance following the easing of lockdown measures in England from Saturday 4 July. The 'one metre plus' social distancing guidelines require workers to stay two metres apart, or one metre with risk mitigation where two metres is not viable, and it is expected that sites will maintain the social distancing measures in place.

Other changes to the Site Operating Procedures – Version 5 are minimal and include:

- Updates to the 'When to Travel to Work' section
- The latest peak times for public transport
- Entry systems to be regularly cleaned rather than between each use
- Drivers to have access to welfare facilities
- Canteens that have been closed or offered a restricted service may now reopen.

30.06.20

The Prime Minister **confirmed** the government's commitment to using construction to help rebuild the economy in the wake of the coronavirus crisis and restated previous pledges to fund 40 new hospitals and provide large-scale investment in roads and rail projects. A statement from Downing Street said the government was committed to an immediate £5bn package of capital investment in infrastructure projects.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) announced that it carried out more than 1,000 spot checks in the first three weeks after it resumed inspections. Figures supplied to Construction News by the HSE for the three weeks between 26 May to 18 June show that the organisation carried out what it termed "spot checks" at 1,055 businesses across all sectors.

26.06.20

The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill, came into effect. It will allow distressed businesses a moratorium, meaning all insolvency proceedings being taken against a company can be paused for an extendable 20-working-day period.

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25.06.20

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) <u>announced</u> it will reduce levy payments to help employers recover from the impact of coronavirus.

23.06.20

- The Prime Minister announced further changes to lockdown measures in England from Saturday 4 July 2020~This will include allowing people to keep a social distance of 'one metre plus' where it is not possible to stay two metres apart, provided that mitigation measures are in place to reduce the risk of transmission.

From Saturday 4th July:

- Pubs, restaurants and hairdressers to reopen (if they adhere to COVID Secure guidelines)
- Two households will be able to meet up in any setting with social distancing measures.

22.06.20

Housing secretary Robert Jenrick confirmed that sites where work has not started, where permission would have run out automatically after three years of inactivity, will have their **consent extended until April 2021**.

The Cabinet Office released a new

Procurement Policy Note, PPN 04/20 - Recovery and Transition from COVID-19, which extends the relief available to public sector suppliers under PPN 02/20 – Supplier Relief due to COVID-19 until 31 October 2020. PPN 04/20 applies to all contracting authorities, including central Government departments, executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies, local authorities, NHS bodies and the wider public sector, which must 'continue to pay suppliers as quickly as possible, on receipt of invoices or in accordance with pre-agreed milestone dates, to maintain

cash flow and protect jobs'.

15.06.20

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings on Public Transport) (England) Regulations
2020 came into force. The wearing of face coverings on public transport became mandatory.

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12.06.20

The Government <u>updated its guidance</u> on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which confirms how the scheme will change from 1 July 2020 to provide for 'flexible furloughing'.

From 1 August, employers will have to contribute towards the cost of furloughed employees' wages.

The CLC published <u>Trade Credit Insurance Guidance</u> to provide practical advice for the construction supply chain when discussing Trade Credit Insurance with brokers and insurers. It is designed to support the Government's Trade Credit Reinsurance Scheme, which will provide £10 billion of Government guarantees to Trade Credit Insurance to stop cover being withdrawn or premiums increasing to unaffordable levels.

11.06.20

The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill, which reached its first reading in the Lords this week, means a winding-up order can only be made if the court is satisfied the company would be unable to pay its debts even if coronavirus had not had a financial effect on the company.

Construction News posted an **article** claiming that a ban on winding-up orders 'will increase legal disputes'.

09.06.20

Health Secretary Matt Hancock

announced that the plan for all primary school years in England to go back to school before the end of term had to be dropped and secondary schools in England may not fully reopen until September "at the earliest".

08.06.20

New quarantine rules began to apply for those entering the UK. Individuals will now have to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival. There is a <u>list of very specific roles that are exempt</u>, including road hauliers; those carrying out essential emergency and maintenance work on water, sewerage, electrical or rail networks; and workers with specialist skills that ensure the continued production of goods. Those who live in the UK but travel overseas for work at least once a week will also be exempt.

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05.06.20

The Government announced that an overhaul of VAT in the construction industry has been pushed back to 2021 due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Reverse charge VAT, which would put an end to subcontractors receiving VAT payments in most situations, will now be introduced on 1 March 2021. The government said the decision to delay had been taken to help "businesses overcome the effects that the coronavirus pandemic has had on them".

04.06.20

Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, announced that face coverings on public transport will be compulsory from 15 June in England to help stop the transmission of coronavirus as more people go back to work. Passengers face fines from 15 June for flouting new rule to stop the spread of coronavirus.

01.06.20

The CLC unveiled construction's coronavirus recovery plan in a document called the **Roadmap to Recovery**, which features three phases:

- Restart: increasing output, maximising employment and minimising disruption (0-3 months)
- Reset: driving demand, increasing productivity and strengthening capability in the supply chain (3-12 months)
- Reinvent: transforming the industry, delivering better value, collaboration and partnership (12-24 months).

29.05.20

Self-Employment Income Support
Scheme (SEISS) was **extended for three months**. The grant will be worth 70 per
cent of their average monthly trading
profit, and will be paid out in a single
instalment to cover three months' worth
of profit. The grant will be capped at
£6,570 in total.

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28.05.20

Construction union <u>Unite demanded</u>
that workers wear masks when they
cannot keep to the two metre social
distancing guidelines on site. The union
wrote to the CLC highlighting its
concerns about the current site operating
procedures (SOP 4).

27.05.20

Goods and materials imported for use on construction sites not expected to be affected by the introduction of **new measures at the UK border** from 8 June 2020, designed to protect against a second wave of coronavirus infections. Whilst anyone entering the UK will be required to undergo 14 days self-isolation, the shortlist of exemptions includes road haulage and freight workers to ensure that the supply of goods is not impacted, as well as anyone moving from within the Common Travel Area, covering Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.

26.05.20

Online service for the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme (SSPRS) was

launched, enabling employers with fewer than 250 employees to apply to HMRC to recover the costs of paying coronavirusrelated SSP. Employers can claim for periods of sickness covering up to two weeks starting on or after:

- 13 March 2020 if their employee(s) had coronavirus or the symptoms, or was
- self-isolating because someone they live with had symptoms
- 16 April 2020 if their employee(s) was shielding because of coronavirus.

The Government has also issued **guidance** on submitting a claim for the SSPRS.

20.05.20

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) announced it is <u>restarting "proactive"</u> inspections of construction sites.

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19.05.20

The Treasury announced the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) **cap will be raised** from £50m to £200m from 26 May.

The UK Government announced that the online service for the **Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme** will be launched on 26 May 2020. This will allow small and medium-sized employers, with fewer than 250 employees, to apply to HMRC to recover the costs of paying coronavirus-related SSP to current or former employees for up to two weeks since 13 March 2020.

18.05.20

In the update guidance by the UK Government titled "Working Safely during Coronavirus" there is no longer any reference to face to face contract being 15 minutes or less. The SOP will now be reviewed accordingly.

The TfL announced that it will be "Restarting London" by increasing their service levels. As part of that they are also re-introducing the Congestion Charge.

The CLC published <u>Version 4 of the Site Operating Procedures</u>. Changes include:

- Removal of the requirement for face-to-face contact to be kept to 15 minutes or less
- The section on PPE now links to the latest Government guidance on face coverings
- References to one-way systems and the reconfiguration of seating and tables and an update on portable toilets
- The requirement to share risk assessments with the workforce
- Clarification on when to travel to work, as set out in the Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy
- Updated links and wording on social distancing.

15.05.20

The UK Government provided an **overview page** for all its guidance in relation to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

The UK Government updated its **guidance** for schools and other education settings.

14.05.20

Construction firms gained access to **fast-track adjudications** for claims of up to £20,000.

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13.05.20

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick published a Written Ministerial

Statement making it clear that for the next 12 months local planning authorities in England should not refuse requests to extend working hours on construction sites up to 9:00pm, Monday to Saturday, without very compelling reasons. In some cases, such as in areas without residential properties, 24-hour working may be justified.

12.05.20

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme **extended to the end of October**, but from the end of July firms will must contribute towards its costs before the scheme is withdrawn.

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announced **plans** to restart the housing market, enabling builders to agree extended working hours on construction sites with their local councils.

11.05.20

The Government published a new 30-page **guidance** on Working Safely During COVID-19 in construction and other outdoor work. The guidance covers:

- Who should go to work
- Social distancing
- Managing customers, visitors and contractors
- Cleaning the workplace
- PPE and face coverings
- Managing the workforce
- Inbound and outbound goods.

The Government published its **COVID-19 Recovery Strategy** which sets out the plan to "return life to as close to normal as possible, for as many people as possible, as fast and fairly as possible... in a way that avoids a new epidemic, minimises lives lost and maximises health, economic and social outcome.

10.05.20

Prime Minister addressed the nation. He confirmed that, whilst those that can work from home should continue to do so, anyone that can't, which includes those in construction and manufacturing, is actively encouraged to go to work but to avoid travelling on public transport where possible.

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07.05.20

recommendations for contractual behaviour where impacted by COVID-19. In summary, the Government is strongly encouraging all individuals, businesses (including funders) and public authorities to act responsibly and fairly in the national interest in performing and enforcing their contracts, to support the response to COVID-19 and to protect jobs and the economy.

The Construction Leadership Council issued COVID-19 Contractual Best Practice Guidance.

06.05.20

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick's **statement** reiterated that building owners and contractors should resume work as as soon as practicable, vital building safety work (cladding work) must continue and that infrastructure and construction work should begin again wherever it is safe to do so.

04.05.20

- The <u>Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLS)</u> opened for applications:
- Businesses can borrow between £2,000 and £50,000, capped at 25% of turnovver, with no fee to access the scheme
- The Government will guarantee 100% of the loan and there will not be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months
- Loan terms will be up to 6 years, no repayments will be due during the first
 12 months
- Interest rates will be capped at 2.5% per annum
- Lenders are not permitted to take personal guarantees or recovery action over a borrower's personal assets (such as their main home or personal vehicle).

01.05.20

CLC <u>called</u> on industry to avoid virusrelated disputes

The CLC called for more firms to sign up to a dispute-resolution charter
 (RICS Conflict Avoidance Pledge
 (CAP)) drawn up by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), amid fears that shutdowns and supply problems in the coronavirus crisis will lead to a surge in contractual disagreements and damaging litigation.

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29.04.20

The Government announced that COVID-19 testing has been **extended** to anyone who goes into work because they cannot work from home and is showing symptoms of coronavirus. This includes construction workers, as well as people they live with who have symptoms, and there are two ways to arrange a test:

- Self-referral enables workers and members of their households who have symptoms to book a test directly using the <u>online system</u>
- Employer referral allows employers to refer workers for a test via a secure portal. Employers will need to obtain a login by emailing portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk with their organisation name, nature of their business, region, and names and email addresses for two users. Contractors may find it more efficient for clients already registered for their essential workers to request the test on their behalf.

27.04.20

Coronavirus **testing** was made available for essential workers and members of their households who showed symptoms of coronavirus. Some construction workers working on projects or infrastructure critical to the response to coronavirus may be categorised as **essential workers**.

The Chancellor launched a new 100% Government-backed **Bounce Back Loan Scheme** for small businesses which opened for applications on 4 May 2020:

- Small businesses will be able to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000 from an accredited lender and access the cash within days
- The Government will pay any fees and interest for the first 12 months, as well as providing lenders with a 100% guarantee for the loan
- No repayments will be due during the first
 12 months
- Loans can be applied for online using a short and simple form.

23.04.20

Letter from Business, Energy & Industrial Secretary Alok Sharma to Construction News reiterates that Site Operating Procedures should be followed.

22.04.20

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment)
Regulations 2020 came into force:

 Reason now needed to not only leave the house but also to remain outside.

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21.04.20

The Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) published **guidance** for those working on and around construction plant during the COVID-19 pandemicKey

 Machines should be regarded as just as likely to be contaminated as colleagues, and equally capable of transmitting the virus.

20.04.20

HM Revenue & Customs <u>launched</u> the online claim service for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

The Builders Merchants Federation (BMF) published Branch Operating **Guidelines** for the safe operation of builders' merchants during COVID-19 restrictions.

 Cleaning routines laid out in detail and compliance mandatory to avoid virus transmission.

17.04.20

The Chancellor confirmed that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been **extended** by one month until 30 June.

16.04.20

Dominic Raab confirmed the UK lockdown has been **extended** for at least three weeks.

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15.04.20

The CLC published <u>Version 3 of the Site</u> <u>Operating Procedures</u>.

Key changes in Version 3 include:

- Confirmation that the HSE is the enforcing authority for PHE guidelines
- Sites need to monitor the implementation of the procedures
- Further details on who should not travel to work
- Guidance for those who have no option but to share transport to work
- Information on the hierarchy of controls which should be implemented to reduce the risk of transmission where social distancing of 2 metres cannot be achieved.

HM Treasury announced the **extension** of the eligibility date of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) from 28 February to 19 March 2020.

14.04.20

The Construction Industry Training Board announced the launch of the Leadership and Management Development Fund. The fund enables large construction companies (with more than 250 directly employed staff) to invest in developing the leadership, management or supervisory skills of their staff.

08.04.20

Letter from Business, Energy & Industrial Secretary Alok Sharma to manufacturing sector stated "there is no restriction on manufacturing continuing".

The CLC issued a joint **statement** with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Infrastructure and Projects Authority. The statement called for construction businesses to pay in accordance with agreed contractual terms.

07.04.20

The UK Government issued **Guidance Notes** for Construction Contracts relating to Procurement Policy Note 02/20.

It is addressed to the public sector and contains model deeds of variation for both NEC3 and JCT standard form contracts.

Public Health England issued new **guidance** on social distancing in the workplace and stated the following in relation to construction:

- If it is not possible to follow the social distancing guidelines in full in relation to a particular activity, consider whether that activity needs to continue for site to operate.
- Where face-to-face contact is essential, keep it to 15 minutes or less wherever possible.

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06.04.20

The UK Government published guidance on the **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**. In order to claim one must have:

Created and started a PAYE payroll scheme on or before 28 February;

Enrolled for PAYE online; and

Have a UK bank account

The UK Government <u>extended the CBILS</u> (see <u>23.03.20</u>) so that all viable small businesses affected, not just those unable to secure regular commercial financing, will now be eligible should they need finance to keep operating.

The UK Government introduced the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS). The UK government will provide a guarantee of 80% to enable banks to make loans of up to £25 million to firms with an annual turnover between £45 million and £500 million. The loans will be at a commercial rate of interest.

02.04.20

Site Operating Procedures – Version 2 was published and withdrawn. Version 1 to continue to apply.

01.04.20

The CLC wrote a <u>letter</u> to the Prime Minister to demand the following:

- Suspending PAYE & CIS tax due to HMRC in April and May
- Deferring/cancelling Apprenticeship Levy payments due for the duration of the crisis
- Encouraging all public sector clients, regulated utilities and firms in the private sector working on public infrastructure to expedite cashflow through the supply chain
- Support for the Directors of micro-businesses
- Retention release
- Extend the £25k SME business continuity grants scheme to the construction sector.

31.03.20

Letter issued from Business, Energy & Industrial Secretary Alok Sharma to construction industry stated:

- Construction workers can continue to work
- Follow the Construction Leadership Council's Site Operating Procedures when doing so (see 23.03.20)
- UK Government issued <u>Guidance</u>
 "Remediation and COVID-19: Building Safety update:

It reiterates that building sites for remediation works do not have to close, so work can continue if it is safely done.

The CLC prepared template of a <u>letter</u> (last link under "Advice for Businesses") that firms can adopt and adapt to issue to their workforces regarding travel to work.

This is a summary of key government and industry guidelines relating to coronavirus for the construction industry in England. This includes both UK wide and England specific measures. Highlighted items link to the detailed underlying statements or documents.



30.03.20

The CLC issued <u>advice</u> on how to safely temporarily shut down sites.

It reiterated that there is currently no law requiring a contractor to do so.

29.03.20

The Cabinet Office issued updated Guidance "Guidance:" Staying at home and away from others (social distancing). Where people are working onsite, employers should ensure that employees are able to follow Public Health England guidelines including, where possible, maintaining a 2 metres distance from others, and washing their hands with soap and water often and for at least 20 seconds (or using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water is not available).

26.03.20

The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) **Regulations** 2020 came into force. They introduced measures including:

- People have to remain in their homes and can only leave for essential business (such as to obtain basic necessities, take exercise and travel for the purposes of work where it is not reasonably possible for that person to work from home.
- Restaurants and all types of leisure sites and businesses, pubs, bars, theatres, gyms, etc. have to close
- Goods for sale business premises are to close other than certain listed businesses (e.g. supermarkets, building supplies stores) that may remain open.
- Contravening these measures is a criminal offence leading to a fine.
 This applies to individuals and officers of a body corporate.

Note: None of these measures directly restrict work on construction sites.

UK Cabinet Office issued **Model Interim Payment Terms** to supplement the earlier guidance on supplier relief.

UK Chancellor <u>announced</u> that self-employed people could apply for grant worth 80% of their average monthly profits over the last 3 years up to £2,500/month.

25.03.20

<u>Coronavirus Act 2020</u> came into force across the UK.

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24.03.20

Michael **Gove** stated that builders should turn up to construction sites if:

- the sites are out in the open; or
- if the sites are on private property and essential work needs to be done.

Matt **Hancock** stated that when it comes to construction, work could continue if workers stood 2 metres apart from each other.

23.03.20

The <u>Prime Minister</u> announced a **lockdown**, including on travelling to and from work:

- Unless absolutely necessary; and
- Work cannot be done from home

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) went live

(Loan up to £5m, interest free for 12 months).

UK social distancing **guide** was published (including specific reference to site workers)

Communities Secretary, Robert **Jenrick** stated:

- it is possible to continue working on construction sites
- Workers will have to follow the social distancing guidelines

The CLC & Build UK released 'Site Operating Procedures' report.

20.03.20

The UK Government issued Procurement Policy Note 02/20: Supplier relief due to COVID-19.

It was addressed to the public sector and seeks to ensure that payments are made to ensure business continuity for the suppliers.

Department of Education <u>announced</u> closure of school.

18.03.20

The **Prime Minister** announced:

- People should be working from home where possible
- People should only leave the home in order to purchase food or medicine.

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17.03.20

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) sent a <u>letter</u> to the Prime Minister asking for construction sites to be kept open.

16.03.20

The <u>Prime Minister</u> delivered his first COVID-19 Briefing Statement.

He advised that:

- There should be no mass gatherings
- To avoid pubs, clubs and theatres
- To avoid unnecessary travel.

05.03.20

First Coronavirus death in England.