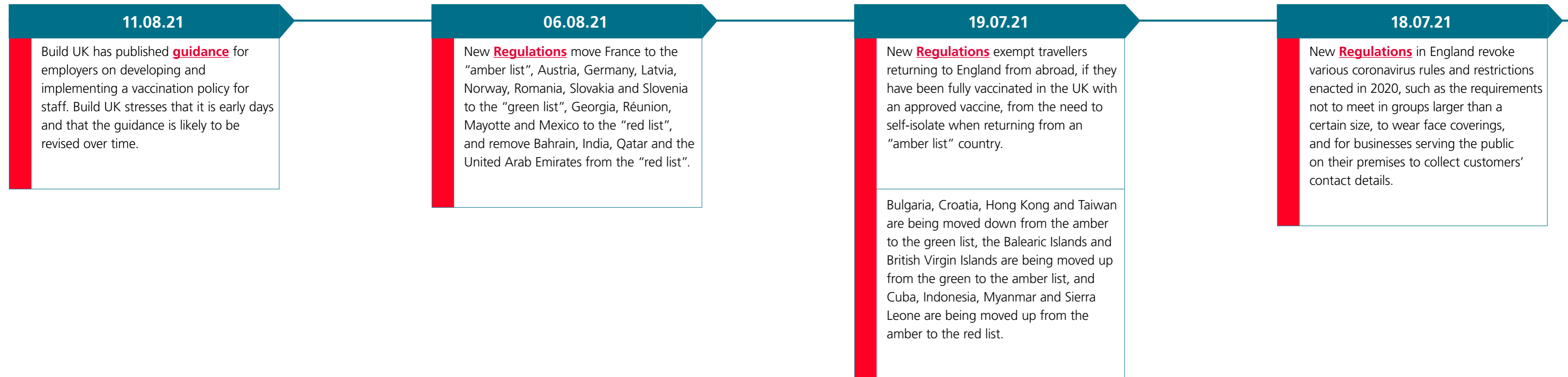


ENGLISH COVID-19 CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE (UPDATED TO 11.08.21)

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

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15.07.21

New **Regulations** 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

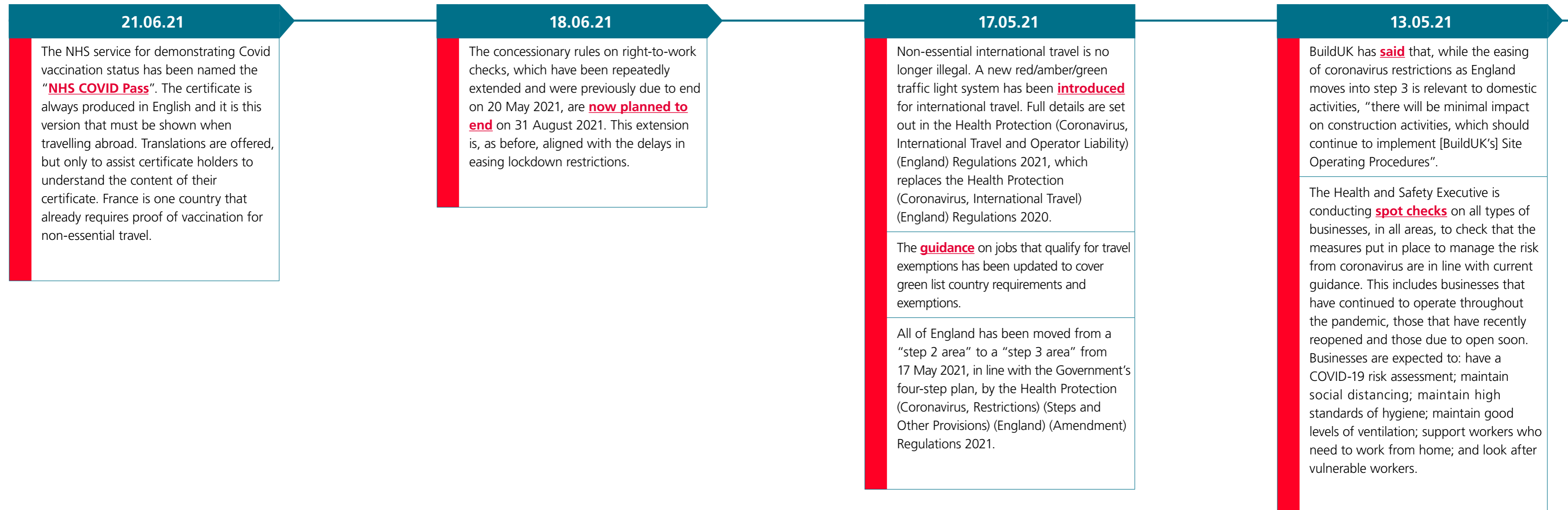
The Government has published **general guidance**, for both the public and businesses, on the behaviour that is recommended to minimise the spread of coronavirus as England moves into step 4, a period with few legal restrictions. The Government recommends "a gradual return over the summer" to workplaces, 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**.

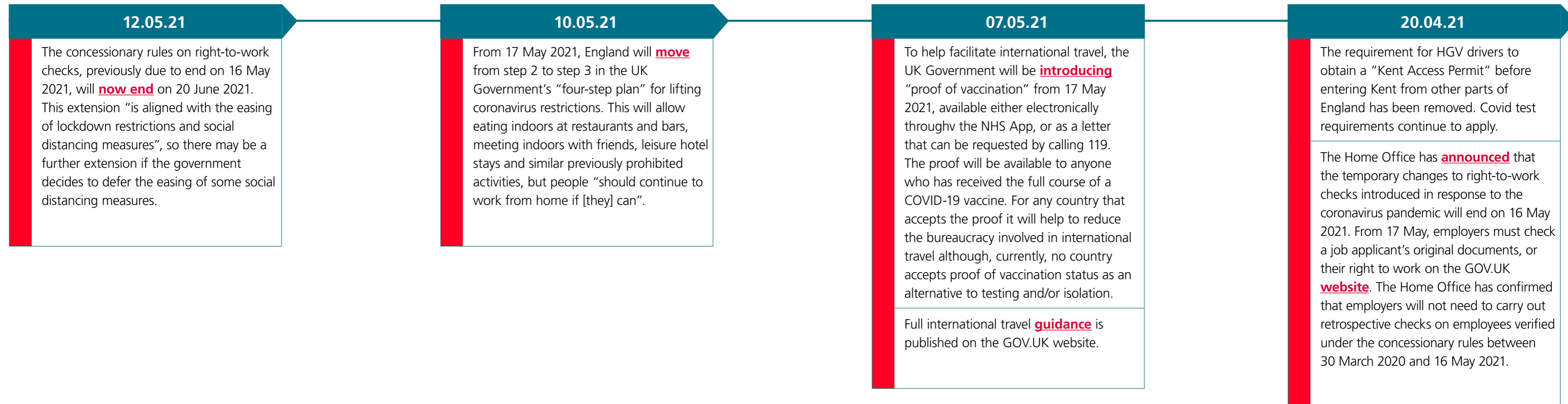
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19.04.21

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 government-approved 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.

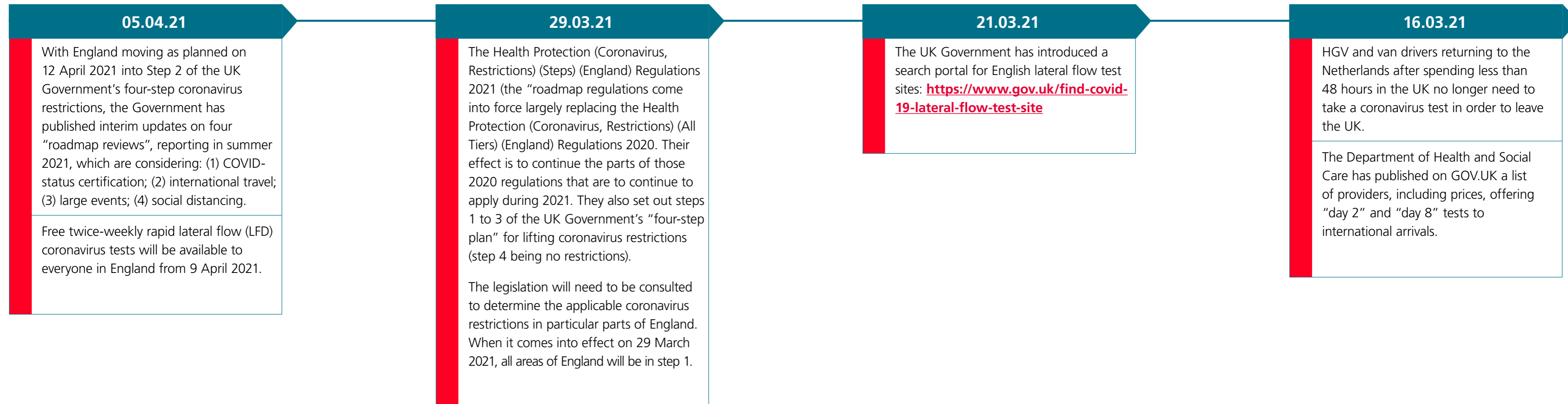
The UK Government has introduced [Regulations](#) moving all of England from a "step 1" area into a "step 2" area – allowing relaxations such as the reopening of non-essential shops – in accordance with its four-step plan.

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.

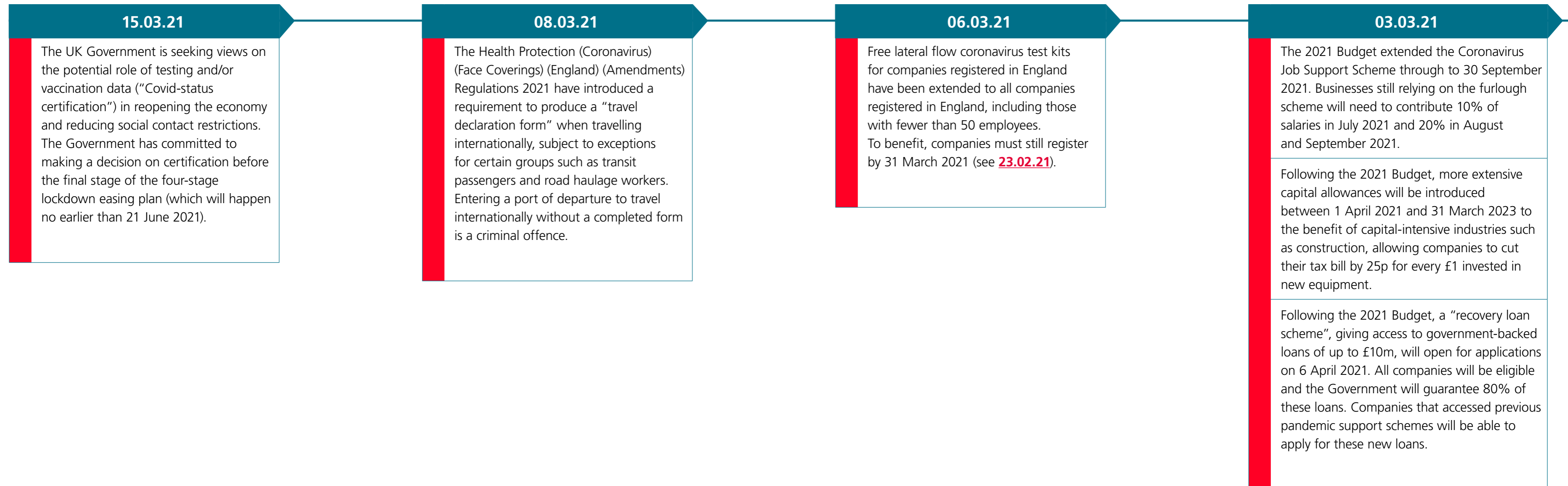
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02.03.21

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 **surge testing** 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, **additional** 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.

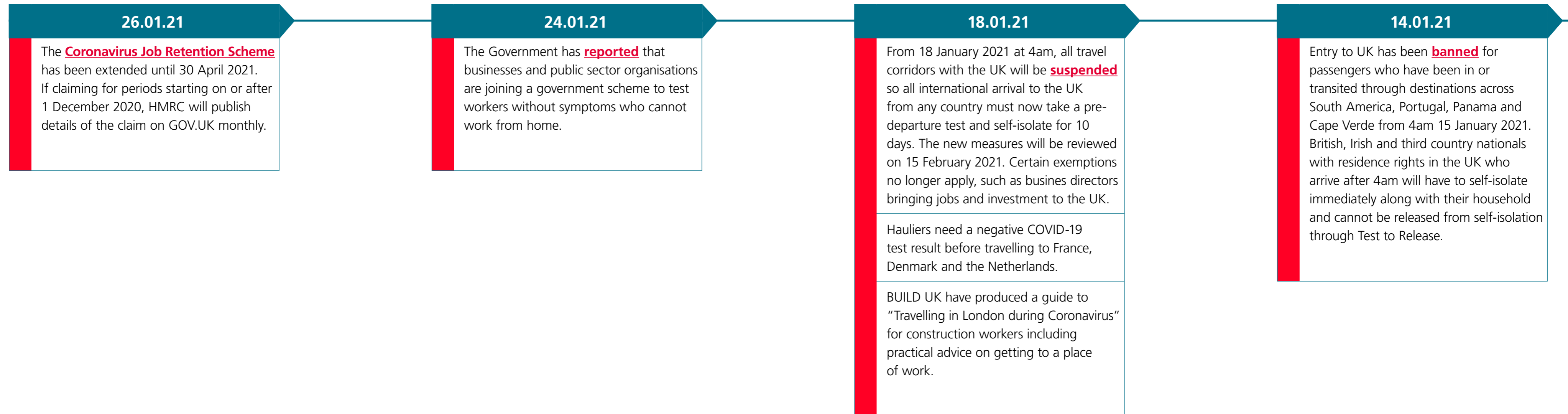
27.01.21

New **travel restrictions** 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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11.01.21

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy issued a [letter](#) 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 [Site Operating Procedures – Version 7](#). 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 [Chancellor](#) 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.

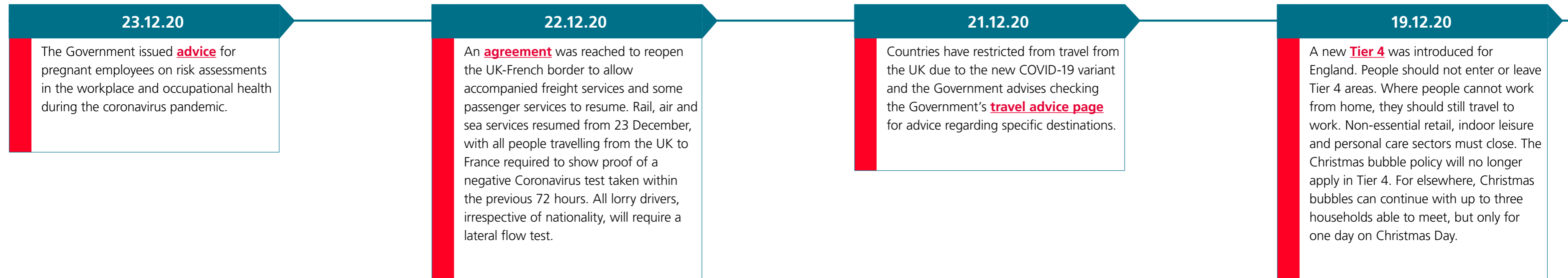
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17.12.20

The Government reviewed the **tier allocations** 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 business 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 **Safer travel guidance** 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 **Nadhim Zahawi** 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 [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) (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 **Prime Minister** announced **new national restrictions** 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 **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** 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, self-isolate, 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 except 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 **law** to self-isolate if they test positive or are contact 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 [Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a Relevant Place\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#) 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

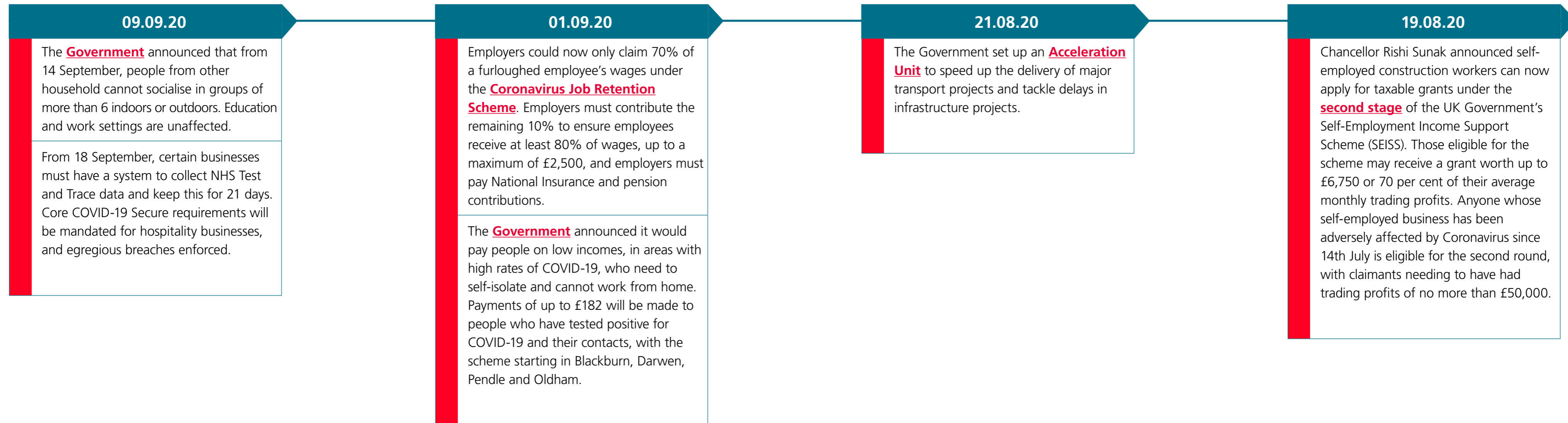
Innovative transport start-ups with a focus on decarbonisation or COVID-19 recovery can bid for a share of over 21£1 million in Department for Transport funding from 14 September 2020 as part of the [Transport-Technology Research and Innovation Grants](#).

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.

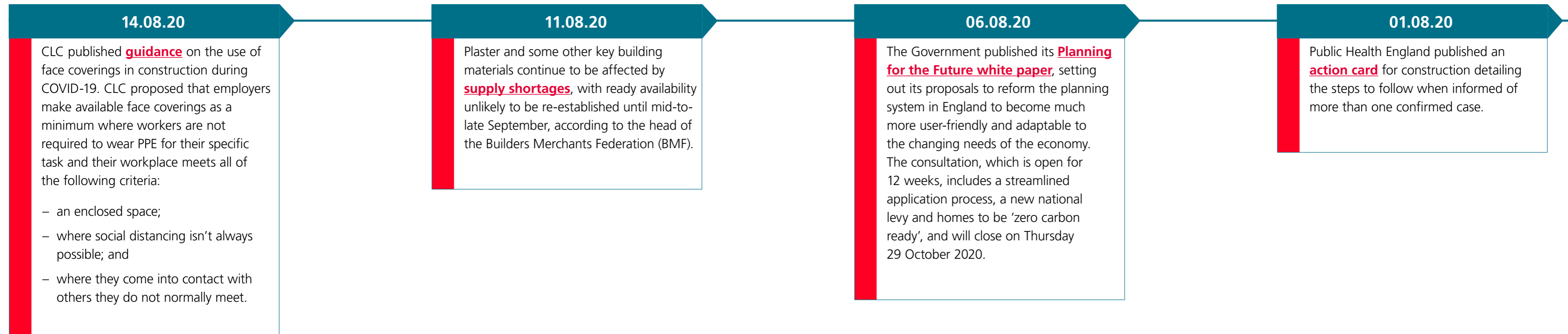
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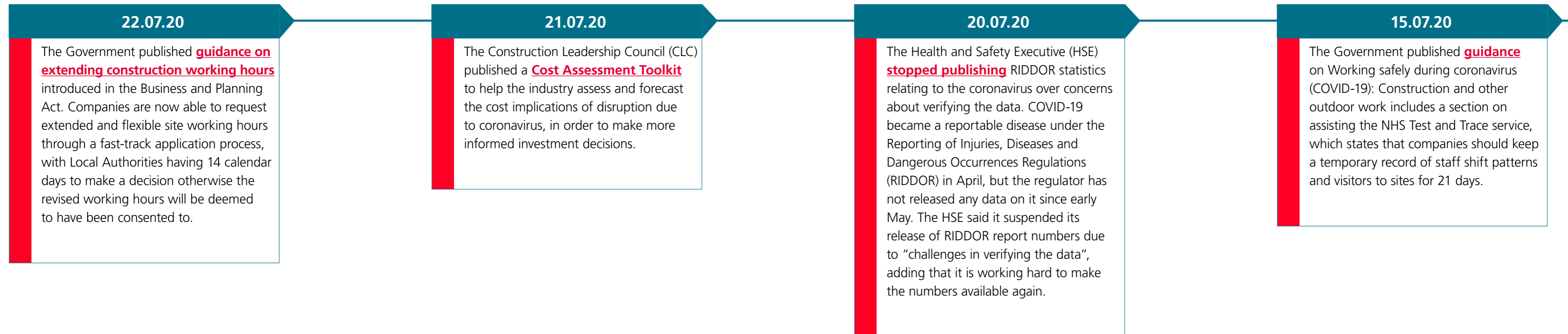
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14.07.20

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 **Site Operating Procedures were updated** 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) **announced** 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 **updated its guidance** 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 **Trade Credit Insurance Guidance** 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 **list of very specific roles that are exempt**, 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 **Unite demanded 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 coronavirus-related 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.

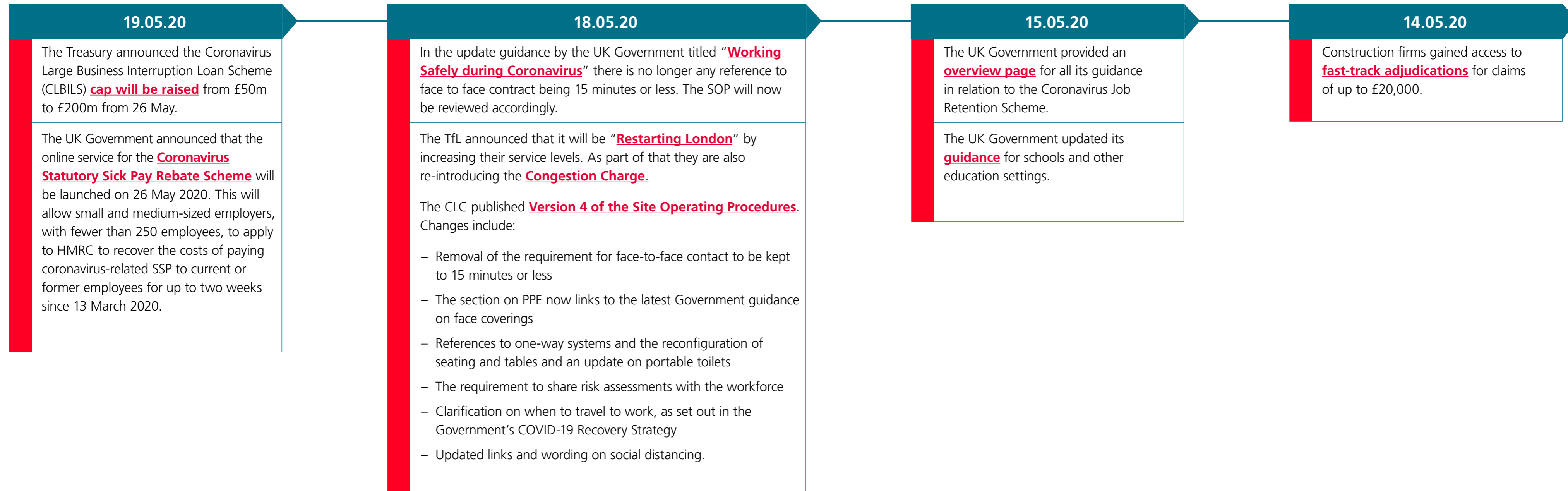
The Government has also issued **guidance** on submitting a claim for the SSPRS.

20.05.20

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) announced it is **restarting “proactive” inspections** of construction sites.

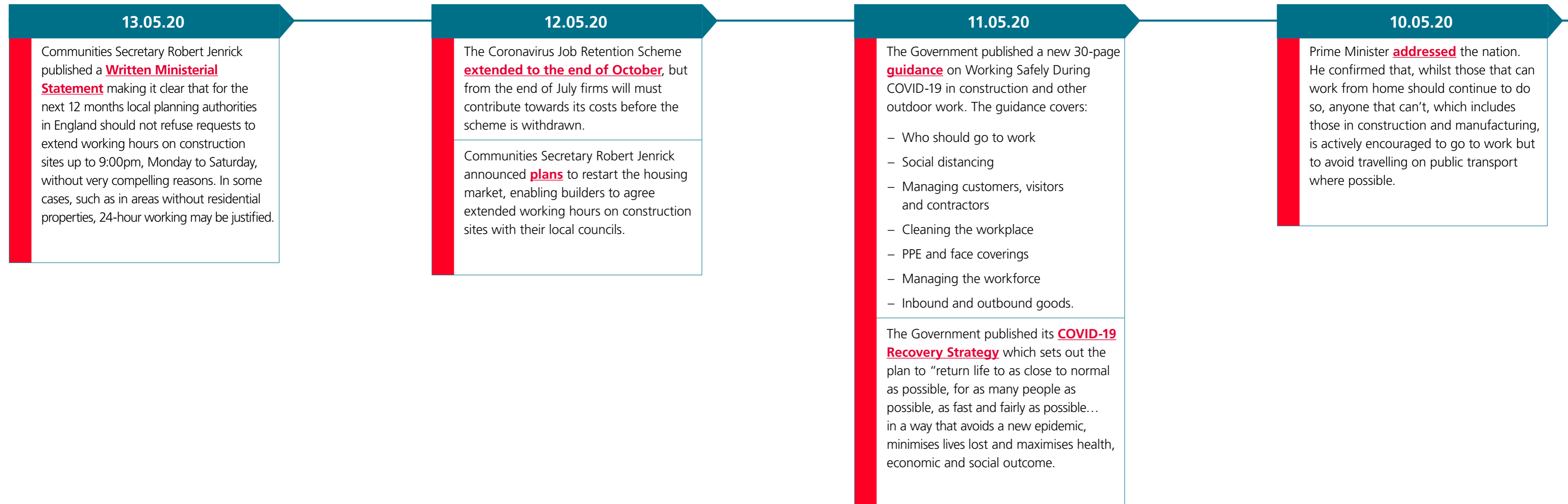
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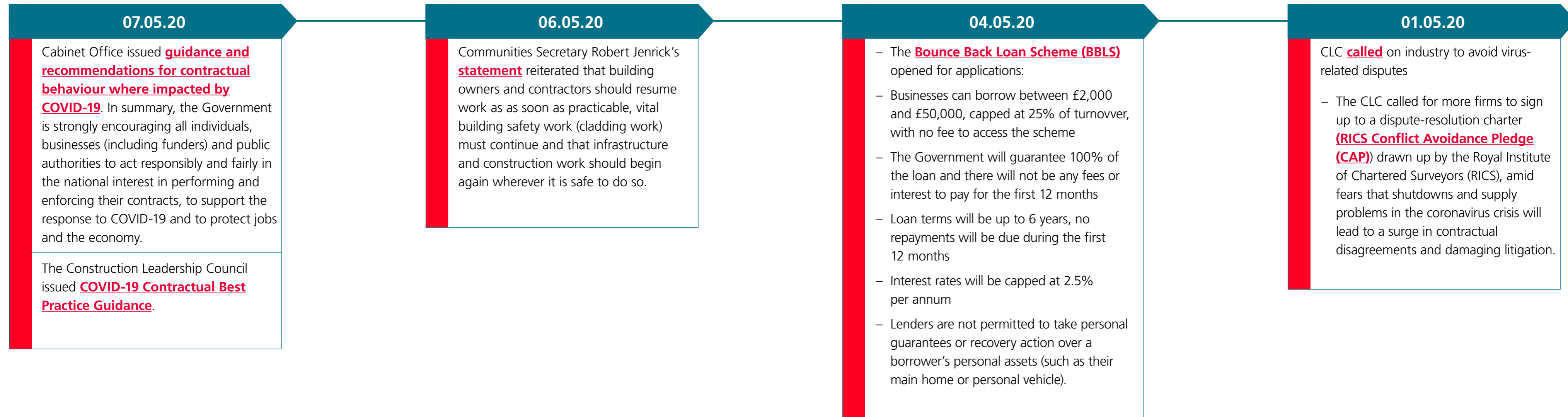
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29.04.20

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 **online system**
- 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.

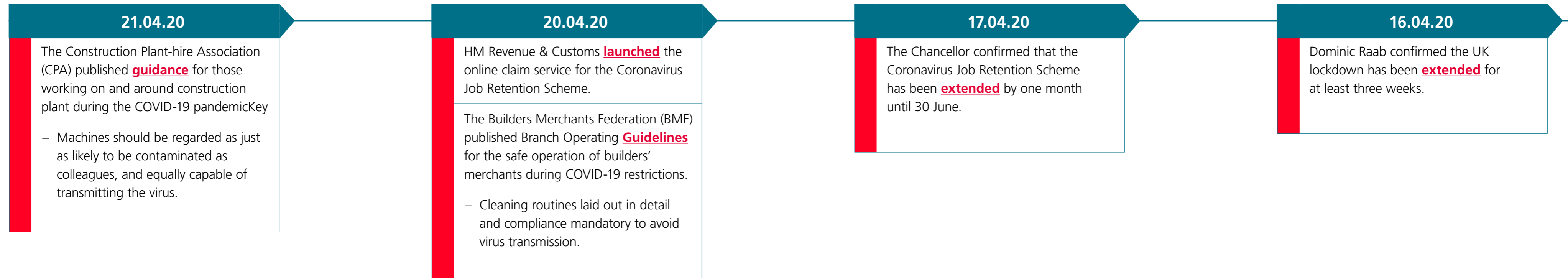
22.04.20

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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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 [extended the CBILS](#) (see [23.03.20](#)) 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 [letter](#) 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](#))

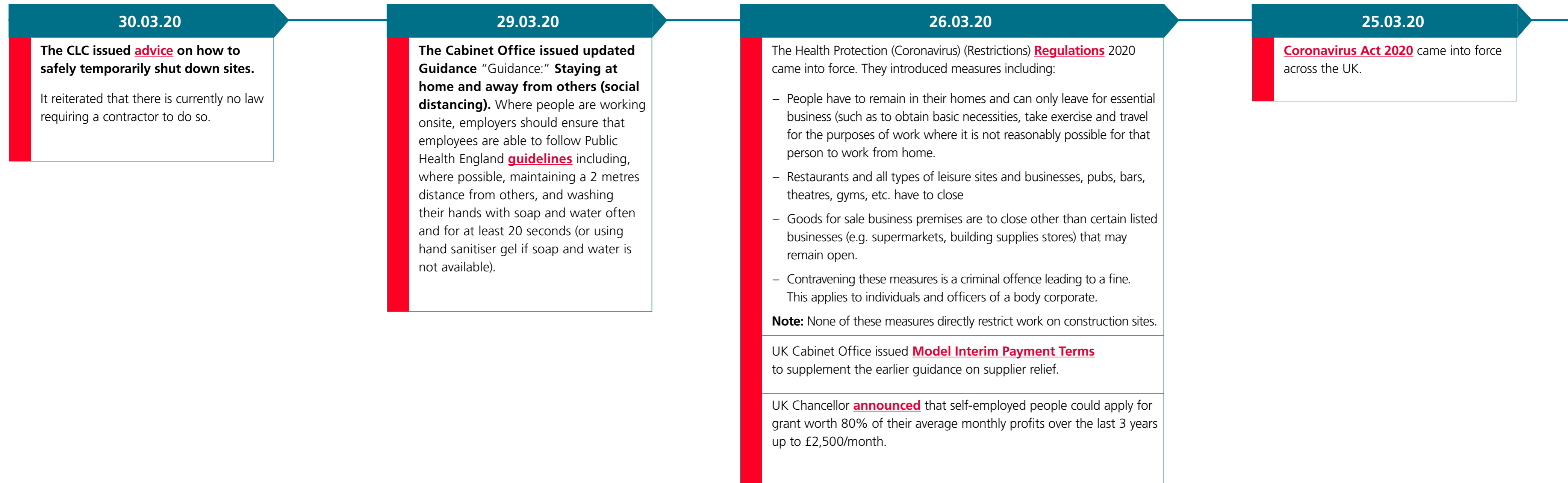
- UK Government issued [Guidance](#) "Remediation and COVID-19: Building Safety update:

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 [letter](#) (last link under "Advice for Businesses") that firms can adopt and adapt to issue to their workforces regarding travel to work.

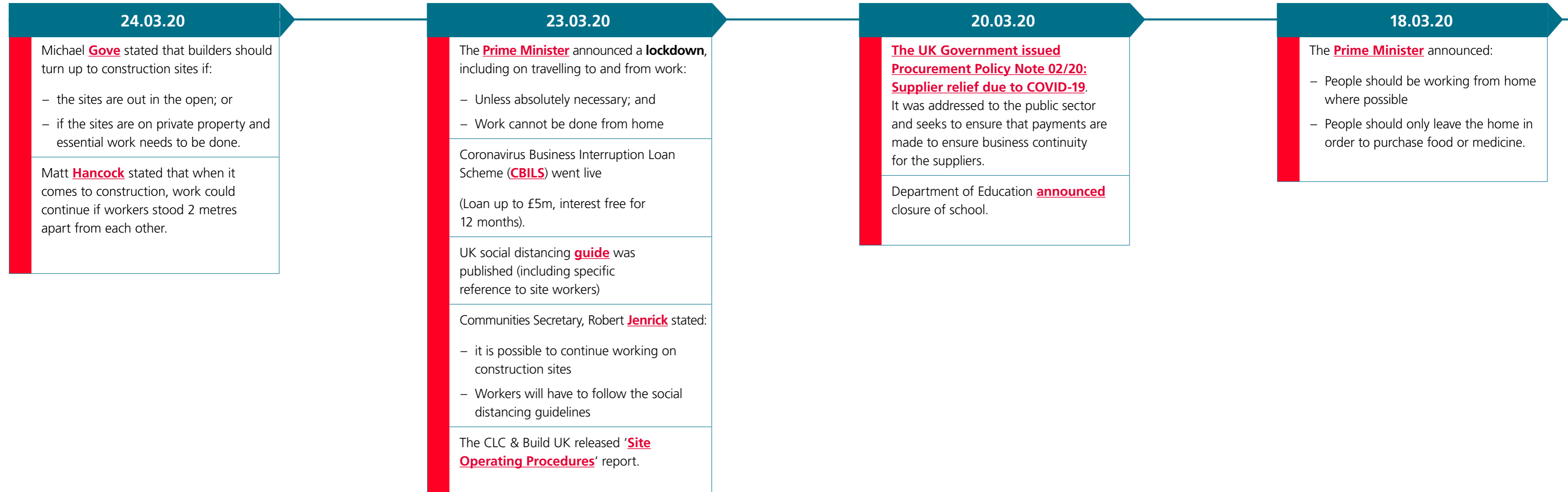
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