

BERA E-NEWSLETTER 17th July 2020 – www.bera.co.uk

Dear Member

Please see below today's update.

Keep well,

Regards

Ron

Summary of the Government Announcements, 17 July 2020

Please see below the latest government announcements regarding COVID-19:

The Prime Minister today made a statement stating:

- that from 18 July, councils will have new powers in their areas, they will be able to close specific premises, shut public outdoor spaces, and cancel events. These powers will enable councils to act more quickly in response to outbreaks, where speed is paramount.
- Next week, the government will publish draft regulations which clearly set out how central government can intervene more effectively at a local level.
- Where justified by the evidence, ministers will be able to close whole sectors or types of premises in an area, introduce local “stay at home” orders, prevent people entering or leaving defined areas, reduce the maximum size of gatherings beyond national rules, or restrict transport systems serving local areas.
- The following timetable, which is conditional and relies on the continued success in controlling the virus, was set out:
 - From 17th July, the government is making clear anybody may use public transport, while of course encouraging people to consider alternative means of transport where they are available.
 - From 25 July, the government has already committed to reopening the indoor gyms, pools and other sports facilities.
 - From 1 August, the government will update the advice on going to work. The government will give employers

more discretion, and ask them to make decisions about how their staff can work safely.

- From 1 August, the government will reopen most remaining leisure settings, namely bowling, skating rinks and casinos, and will enable all close contact services such as beauticians to resume.
- From 1 August, indoor performances to a live audience, subject to the success of pilots, can restart and the government will also pilot larger gatherings in venues like sports stadia, with a view to wider reopening in the Autumn. Wedding receptions for up to 30 people will also be allowed.
- From October, the government intends to bring back audiences in stadia and to allow conferences and other business events to recommence in Covid-19 secure way, subject to the successful outcome of pilots.
- The guidance on the closure of certain businesses and venues has been updated to reflect the further easing of restrictions to allow more businesses and venues to reopen from 25 July and 1 August.

DfH has published a suite of new guidance:

- Guidance for local authorities and local decision-makers on containing and managing COVID-19 outbreaks at a local level.
- Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock spoke about the local lockdown measures in Leicester and an issue with Randox swab test kits.
- Guidance on what restrictions are in place if you live, work or travel in the Leicester area during the local outbreak

DfE have published new guidance on:

- a new government scheme launched to support universities at risk of insolvency
- They have also updated guidance for higher education providers on when and how to reopen their campuses and buildings, with sections updated on :
 - Performing arts
 - Transport
 - international students and self-isolation

Ofqual have published new guidance detailing their programme of work, comprising four priorities, to fulfil their statutory duties 2020 - 2021.

- Regulating GCSE, AS & A levels in response to coronavirus
- Regulating vocational and technical qualifications in response
- Supporting quality in regulated qualifications and assessments,
- Managing our people, resources and systems

The Cabinet Office have updated guidance highlighting:

- The Government's roadmap for how and when the UK will adjust its response to the crisis.
- On the closure of certain businesses and venues as part of further social distancing measures, and on the further easing of restrictions in July and August 2020.
- "Our plan to rebuild: the UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy" guidance has been updated to include an additional chapter on the recovery strategy that sets out the next stages of the government's plan. The additional chapter covers the following:
 - Suppressing the virus
 - Opening up society and the economy
 - Continuing the Plan to Rebuild
 - Preparing for winter
 - Lifting restrictions step by step

The Department for Digital, Culture and Sport have:

- Updated guidance for the public, providers of outdoor sport facilities, elite athletes, personal trainers and coaches on the phased return of sport and recreation including the safe return of spectators
- New guidance that sporting events will allow fans to return from 1 October with social distancing in place, if it is safe to do so.
- New guidance that indoor performances with socially distanced audiences will be able to take place across the country from 1 August

Updated guidance on the £750m funding for VCSE, noting the current funding opportunity of Covid 19 Food Charity Grant Scheme is now closed. It has now been moved to 'Other sources of funding for VCSEs' and a new funding source has been added to 'Other sources of funding for VCSEs' – Vulnerable Children National Charities Strategic Relief Fund – £7.6m