

BERA E-NEWSLETTER 20th July 2020 – www.bera.co.uk

Dear Member

Please see below today's update.

Keep well,

Regards

Ron

Summary of the Government Announcements, 20 July 2020

Please see below the latest government announcements regarding COVID-19 for the weekend period of 17-20/7/20:

Department of Health and Social Care has updated guidance stating:

- that you can also [meet in larger groups for weddings](#) (from 1 August this will include sit-down wedding receptions), funerals, religious ceremonies and services, community activities and support groups - which should be limited to no more than 30 people and subject to guidelines.
- It is otherwise against the law for gatherings of more than 30 people to take place in private homes (including gardens and other outdoor spaces).
- Businesses and venues following guidelines can host larger groups. This is also the case for events in public outdoor spaces that are organised by businesses, charitable or political organisations, and public bodies, provided they take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of transmission, in line with guidance and including completion of a risk assessment.
- Also [how you can see people you do not live with if there's a local lockdown](#) and have updated shielding guidance in Leicester – where the advice is to shield continues across all geographic areas

DfT has published [new guidance](#) outlining the local outbreak in Leicester. The guidance states that if you live or work in this area stay at home as much as you can. People should only travel into, out of and within areas under local lockdown if travel is essential. For example:

- to get to and from work, if you cannot work from home
- to get essential food or medical supplies including click and collect services
- to support someone who is vulnerable, if no-one else can do so
- for exercise, locally where possible
- to travel to and from others in your support bubble
- to attend an Early Years setting, school or college, or to accompany a child who is attending an Early Years setting, school or college, where necessary and allowed
- You should not travel into, out of or within areas under local lockdown for a holiday

Department for Digital, Culture and Sport has published:

- [new guidance](#) outlining that business events and conferences will be permitted to resume from 1 October provided rates of infection remain at current levels. Government are to begin pilots to help plan how best to restart indoor business events, outlining how the nation's conference venues can get back up and running safely
- [new guidance](#) stating that the UK has secured early access to 90 million doses of promising coronavirus vaccine candidates.

MHCLG has published:

- [Updated guidance](#) designed to assist people planning to get married or form a civil partnership. Amended to show that from 1 August, small wedding receptions will be able to take place – this means sit-down meals for no more than 30 people, subject guidance.
- [New guidance](#) on the Next Steps Accommodation Programme, making resources available to councils to help ensure 15,000 people continue to have a safe place to stay. The next step in the government's plans to help ensure some of the most vulnerable people in society continue to have a roof over their heads and are helped into long term accommodation. Councils and their local partners can apply for funds from the government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme to cover property costs and support new tenancies, for vulnerable people who were provided with emergency accommodation during the pandemic.

- This programme now takes total government support for homelessness and rough sleepers to over half a billion pounds. This will help ensure as few people as possible helped off the streets and into accommodation during the pandemic return to sleeping rough and help to break the cycle of homelessness for good. A total of £105m is now available to ensure interim accommodation and support continues for those who need it and can be used to help people move into the private rented sector, extend or secure alternative interim accommodation or where possible help people to reconnect with friends or family. In addition, first wave funding, totalling £161m, is also available to provide 3,300 additional supported homes this year for those currently housed in emergency accommodation. This is part of a total of £433m to provide 6,000 long term, safe homes for those in need

[New guidance](#) on people using pubs, restaurants and cafes will soon have greater freedom to choose non-smoking outdoor areas following an amendment tabled today to legislation in Parliament.