

BERA E-NEWSLETTER 27th July 2020 – www.bera.co.uk

Dear Member

Please see below today's update.

Keep well,

Regards

Ron

Summary of the Government Announcements, 27 July 2020

Please see below the latest government announcements regarding COVID-19 for the weekend period of 24/7-27/7/20:

Department of Health and Social Care has published a suite of:

- [New guidance](#) for businesses and organisations on how to recognise, contain and report incidents, The action cards provide instructions to anyone responsible for a business or organisation on what to do in the event of one or more confirmed cases in your organisation. These quick-reference guides provide key steps to help you quickly identify, report and respond to any potential outbreak within your local community. An outbreak is one or more confirmed cases, depending on the type of organisation. The action cards have been developed to cover a range of businesses and organisations to provide specific advice on the issues each type of organisation may face now lockdown restrictions have been eased. They complement existing outbreak control guidance, and signpost to other useful information to help business owners and managers fully understand their responsibilities in the event of an outbreak
- [New guidance](#) outlining temporary measures to prevent further spread in Blackburn with Darwen. To control the spread of coronavirus in Blackburn with Darwen, this is also the [guidance](#) that has been released for Luton, the government has agreed with these local authorities that the following facilities within these local authority areas will not reopen on 25 July:
 - indoor gyms
 - indoor fitness and dance studios
 - indoor sports courts and facilities

- indoor swimming pools, including indoor facilities at water parks

We also do not expect the changes planned nationally for 1 August to take effect in Luton along with Blackburn with Darwen. This would mean:

- guidance on working from home would stay the same
- casinos, skating rinks and bowling alleys would remain closed
- The advice to shield remains in place

These are the only differences from the restrictions in place across the rest of the country.

DfT has published a suite of:

- [Updated guidance](#) on safer travel and working principles for airports and aviation operators outlining the change to rule on wearing a face covering in airports.
- [New guidance](#) stating that from Tuesday 28 July 2020, passengers may not need to self-isolate when arriving in England from Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia and St Vincent and the Grenadines.
- [Updated guidance](#) on walking, cycling, and travelling in vehicles or on public transport during the outbreak outlining a change to rule on wearing a face covering in transport hubs.

DfE has [updated guidance](#) with information for schools, students and parents on how GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and technical qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020.

MoJ has published [new guidance](#) introducing legislation to allow people to use video-conferencing technology for the witnessing of wills being made. There is 5 stage process to this change.

PHE have published [new guidance](#) supporting people to move towards and maintain a healthier weight may reduce the serious effects of COVID-19 on the population reports show obesity or being excessively overweight increases the risk of severe illness and death.

- The report summarises findings from evidence published during the pandemic on the effects of excess weight and obesity on COVID-19. UK and international evidence suggests that being severely overweight puts people at greater risk of hospitalisation, Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

admission and death, with risk growing substantially as body mass index (BMI) increases.

- The current evidence does not suggest that having excess weight increases people's chances of contracting COVID-19. However, the data does show that obese people are significantly more likely to become seriously ill and be admitted to intensive care compared to those with a healthy BMI.
- A new [national campaign](#) is under way to encourage millions of adults to kick start their health and reduce their risk of serious illness, including COVID-19.

The Cabinet Office has [updated guidance](#) stating from 1 August, subject to rates of transmission closer to the time: employers will have more discretion, in consultation with their employees, on how to ensure people can work safely:

- working from home is one way to do this, but workplaces can also be made safe by following guidelines
- the clinically extremely vulnerable will no longer need to follow advice on shielding, though should still take particular care to follow the social distancing guidelines when meeting people - bowling alleys, skating rinks and casinos can open
- conference and exhibition centres will be able to reopen in order to enable pilots for business events to take place
- they should not yet be open fully to host events more widely - indoor performances to a live audience can begin to take place, in line with guidelines and subject to the success of pilots that are taking place as soon as possible
- further pilots of larger events can take place in venues, including in sports stadia and business conferences
- small wedding receptions – sit-down meals for no more than 30 people – can take place, subject to guidance
- all remaining close contact services – such as facial treatment and make up application – can restart, in line with guidelines

HMRC has published [updated guidance](#) stating from 3 to 31 August, there is a 50% discount when you eat in at restaurants that are registered with the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme. Registered restaurants can be found online.

DEFRA has [updated guidance](#) advising pet owners and livestock keepers on looking after the welfare of animals during pandemic. Updated with information about a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a cat in England.

MHCLG has published:

- [New guidance](#) stating communities across the country are set to benefit from better local services as councils receive a share of £800,000 for innovative digital projects

[Updated guidance](#) for the safe use of places of worship and special religious services and gatherings during the pandemic. MHCLG has produced a special religious services and gatherings checklist, which includes some key principles to ensure people can take part in special religious services and gatherings safely.