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This is the ninth in our weekly COVID 19 Business Support Information

Welsh Government closure of businesses and premises updated guidance

On 26 March 2020, the government stepped up measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus and outlined which businesses and premises should close. This guidance has been updated on 12 May 2020, please visit the [GOV.Wales](https://www.gov.wales) website for further information.

Social distancing and keeping business open by working safely

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has produced guidelines on how businesses must maintain social distancing and protect their staff during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The guidance explains what employers must do in order to keep their businesses open and it covers:

- social distancing
- essential and non-essential work
- safe in-work activity

For further information please visit the [HSE](https://www.hse.gov.uk) website.

Welsh Government updated Coronavirus guidance for employers

The Welsh Government has updated their Guidance under regulation 7A of the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 for employers. The 'Taking all reasonable measures to maintain physical distancing in the workplace' guidance includes:

- [General principles](#)
- [Reasonable Measures](#)
- [Enforcement](#)
- [Review](#)

For further information please visit the [GOV.Wales](https://www.gov.wales) website.



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UK GOV - working safely guidance during Coronavirus – Start planning how your business will re-open

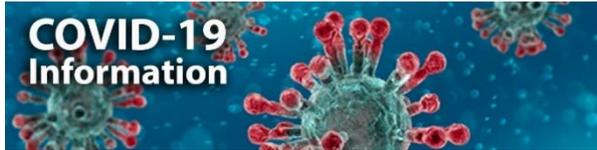
The UK government, in consultation with industry, has produced 'COVID-19 secure' guidance to help ensure workplaces are as safe as possible. The new guidance covers **8 workplace settings** which are allowed to be open, from outdoor environments and construction sites to factories and takeaways. This sets out practical steps for businesses focused on five key points, which should be implemented as soon as it is practical:

1. Work from home, if you can
2. Carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment, in consultation with workers or trade unions
3. Maintain 2 metres social distancing, wherever possible
4. Where people cannot be 2 metres apart, manage transmission risk
5. Reinforcing cleaning processes

The 8 guides cover a range of different types of work. Many businesses operate more than one type of workplace, such as an office, factory and fleet of vehicles. You may need to use more than one of these guides as you think through what you need to do to keep employees safe. Guides include:

- construction and other outdoor work
- factories, plants and warehouses
- homes
- labs and research facilities
- offices and contact centres
- restaurants offering takeaway or delivery
- shops and branches
- vehicles

For further information and to download the guides please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.



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Holiday entitlement and pay during Coronavirus

The UK government have issued guidance on how holiday entitlement and pay operate during the coronavirus pandemic, where it differs from the standard holiday entitlement and pay guidance. It is designed to help employers understand their legal obligations, in terms of workers who:

- continue to work
- have been placed on furlough as part of the government's [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)](#)

Furloughed workers

Workers who have been placed on furlough continue to accrue statutory holiday entitlements, and any additional holiday provided for under their employment contract.

For further information please visit the [GOV.UK](#) website.

UK Government to support businesses through Trade Credit Insurance guarantee

Trade Credit Insurance provides cover to hundreds of thousands of business to business transactions, particularly in non-service sectors, such as manufacturing and construction. It insures suppliers selling goods against the company they are selling to defaulting on payment, giving businesses the confidence to trade with one another. But due to Coronavirus and businesses struggling to pay bills, they risk having credit insurance withdrawn, or premiums increasing to unaffordable levels. To prevent this from happening, the UK government will temporarily guarantee business-to-business transactions currently supported by Trade Credit Insurance, ensuring the majority of insurance coverage will be maintained across the market.

For further information please visit the [GOV.UK](#) website.



Changes in £6.5 million Circular Economy Fund

Due to COVID-19 many organisations are facing significant challenges. In response to this WRAP Cymru have implemented changes to the £6.5 million Circular Economy Fund, which are designed to support even more organisations and more quickly. In addition to funding the use of recycled materials in products, WRAP Cymru is now able to support preparation for re-use, refurbishment and re-manufacturing activities in Wales.

Eligible projects must:

- increase the use of recycled plastic, paper / card or textiles in existing or new products (projects seeking to use other recycled materials will be considered on a case-by-case basis); or
- extend the life-time of products / materials through preparation for re-use, refurbishment or re-manufacturing activities

For further information please visit the [Wrap Cymru](#) website.

Future Fund Opened yesterday

The Future Fund will provide government loans to UK-based companies ranging from £125,000 to £5 million, subject to at least equal match funding from private investors. These convertible loans may be a suitable option for businesses that rely on equity investment and are unable to access the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. The scheme will be delivered in partnership with the British Business Bank.

You're eligible if your business:

- is based in the UK
- can attract the equivalent match funding from third-party private investors and institutions
- has previously raised at least £250,000 in equity investment from third-party investors in the last 5 years

The scheme will launch on 20 May 2020, please visit the [GOV.UK](#) website for further details.



Economy & Enterprise Team – Business Support

If you need to get in touch with an enquiry complete your [details here](#) and we will contact you as soon as possible.

COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

COVID-19: Support for businesses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

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