



BIZ BUZZ CRISIS UPDATE

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GETTING BACK TO WORK...STILL LOTS OF QUESTIONS... AND CONSTANT CHANGES

Many new guidelines are about to be published in the next few days. As biz buzz warned at the start, everything changes. Keep asking & checking because there are so very many different sets of circumstances. Here are some of the facts. But be aware they could be changed as more and more workers, managers, unions & experts raise concerns and make demands.

THE KEY DAY IS WEDNESDAY The relaxation of the regulations will start on Wednesday 13th ...and not , as the Prime Minister indicated last night that they applied from today. A fifty page document has been published to explain the policies and outline the new rules. It does not answer all your questions by any means. You can see it here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884171/FINAL_6.6_637_CO_HMG_C19_Recovery_FINAL_110520_v2_WEB_1_.pdf

The COVID-19 Secure guidelines are expected to be published tonight. Today's roadmap document states:

"For the foreseeable future, workers should continue to work from home rather than their normal physical workplace, wherever possible. As soon as practicable ... workplaces are required to follow the new COVID-19 Secure guidelines."

"All workers who cannot work from home should travel to work if their workplace is open" This includes food production, construction, manufacturing, logistics, distribution and scientific research. The only exceptions to this are those workplaces such as hospitality and non-essential retail which during this first step the Government is requiring to remain closed.

GARDEN CENTRES will be allowed to open on Wednesday if they comply with social distancing.

SPOT CHECKS The government is setting up an unannounced spot check system which will decide whether businesses are genuinely complying with the guidelines.

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS you mustn't go to work. "It remains the case that anyone who has symptoms, however mild, or is in a household where someone has symptoms, should not leave their house to go to work. Those people should self-isolate, as should those in their households."

FURLOUGHES Business lawyers confirm that small businesses who have furloughed their employees but who do not want to open up yet since there is no business, can continue to use the furlough scheme until it is stopped. At that point it is up to the employer whether they cut the jobs and make redundancies or not.

HOSPITALITY, BEAUTY SALONS, HAIRDRESSERS, CINEMAS, CHURCHES. The hospitality industry such as food service providers, pubs and accommodation (except for food deliveries which are operating now) is expected to open up AFTER 4th July if they can comply with social distancing. Also included in this tranche of businesses is personal care (such as hairdressers and beauty salons), public places (such as places of worship) and leisure facilities (like cinemas).

They should also meet the COVID-19 Secure guidelines. Some venues which are, by design, crowded and where it may prove difficult to enact distancing may still not be able to re-open safely at this point.

SELF EMPLOYED WORKERS e.g. carpet fitters , plumbers, joiners, electricians, cleaners who need to enter people's houses have no answers as to how or when they can continue their work. The documents suggest that we should not enter other's houses. It may depend whether this could be defined as "construction" which IS allowed.

TRAVEL When travelling everybody (including critical workers) should continue to avoid public transport wherever possible. Social distancing guidance on public transport must be followed rigorously. As Biz Buzz reported yesterday , the Government is planning to increase funding to widen pavements, close some roads and build pop-up cycles lanes. Transport operators will have new guidelines. These will be published tomorrow.

FACE MASKS The Government is promoting cloth face masks in enclosed spaces to protect others in case you are a carrier. These are not medical face masks which must be saved for the NHS. the document says "Homemade cloth face-coverings can help reduce the risk of transmission in some circumstances. Face-coverings should not be used by children under the age of two, or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly, for example primary age children unassisted, or those with respiratory conditions. It is important to use facecoverings properly and wash your hands before putting them on and taking them off.

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If you need to get information, advice or need to apply for loans from Breckland District Council here is the link: www.breckland.gov.uk/coronavirus

All Biz Buzz crisis updates are to be found on www.np4nb.online