

## **PORT CLOSURES. DELIVERY COMPANIES SUSPEND OPERATIONS**

### **PM SAYS THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING TOWARDS AN EU WIDE AGREEMENT.**

More than 40 countries are banning ingress from the UK. Grant Schapps, Transport Secretary, says there are only 175 lorries stacked on the M20 currently, although they have opened up parking areas - like Manston airport- planned to take the backlog in case of a Brexit no-deal. The BBC correspondents in situ at Dover are seeing many more HGVs than that being turned away and are parking on roads and areas across the Kentish countryside. Talks continue and the PM believes that HGVs should be allowed to cross because lorry drivers tend to stay in their cabs in isolation anyway. The PM says the French President is hoping to come to an arrangement "within the next few hours".

### **SMALL BUSINESSES BE WARNED...POSTAGE AND DELIVERIES SEVERELY DISRUPTED. YOU MUST CHECK BEFORE SENDING VIA DHL, FEDEX, TNT etc.**

The politicians' assert that the problems at Dover and other ports are not unique, since they are similar to strikes and disruptions in previous years. They claim the disruption is manageable and really only affects fresh produce coming into the UK. The PM says it's only 20% of the trade in and out of the country that's affected i.e. it's only "accompanied" cargos. This is not so. Deliveries and pick-ups of many types by major delivery companies are now suspended which is why messages of the following variety are being sent out.

- DHL Economy Select suspended (excluding UK to Republic of Ireland and vice versa)
- DHL Parcel International suspended (excluding UK to Republic of Ireland and vice versa)
- All FedEx and TNT freight (over 68kg) and non-conveyable shipments on Economy services moving between the UK, Republic of Ireland and Europe are suspended

Air Services are not affected, but please be aware that given limited flight availability and high volumes, delays may occur.

You may not be able to guarantee that cargo arrives in Europe before the 1st January. This means you will have to review taxes and VAT and duties.

#### **SOME USEFUL LINKS:**

##### **The Bounce Back Loan Scheme:**

<https://www.mapartners.co.uk/news/coronavirus-bounce-back-loan/>

All those businesses that borrowed less than the maximum amount available to them through the Bounce Back Loan will be eligible to 'top-up' their existing loan.

Businesses will be able to access this 'top-up' only once; and

The top-up will be available from week commencing 9 November 2020.

##### **The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme**

<https://www.mapartners.co.uk/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme/>

##### **The Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme**

<https://www.mapartners.co.uk/news/clbils-loan-extension/>

Anyone in Norfolk who is experiencing Covid-19 symptoms should book a test. See the details here: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/)

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](http://www.breckland.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**All Biz Buzz crisis updates are to be found on [www.np4nb.online](http://www.np4nb.online)**