

Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for businesses

Simple steps you may wish to take:

Refresh your business continuity plan and ensure clear communication of processes should self-isolation be required

- If staff can work from home, ensure that they have the necessary equipment and tools to be able to do so should they need to self-isolate
- Ensure staff contact details are up to date should people need to work from home
- Increase messaging around hand washing, make sure toilets have soap available and that antibacterial wipes are available to clean down desks and working areas regularly
- Communicate clearly with your customers the steps that you are taking to reduce risks

Budget 2020 COVID-19 Response

The government announced several measures in response to COVID-19 to support businesses, including:

- Business rates will be abolished this year for firms with a rateable value below £51,000. The rates relief will be expanded to the leisure and hospitality sectors.
- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) will be available to anyone advised to self-isolate. They will be able to get a sick note through 111
- The minimum income level will temporarily be removed from universal credit.
- There will also be a £500m hardship fund for local authorities
- The cost of a business having to have someone off work for up to 14 days will be refunded with £2bn allocated to cover firms that lose out because staff are off sick. This will apply to firms that employ fewer than 250 staff.
- A Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme will be introduced to support up to £1 billion
- A £2.2 billion grant scheme for small businesses
- A dedicated helpline has been set up by HMRC for those who need a deferral period on their tax liabilities

Further Advice and guidance – please click on links below: -

- [**FSB advice to small businesses**](#) Advice on reducing risks of disruption from the COVID-19 virus to you and your business
- [**Coronavirus guidance to employers and businesses**](#) This guidance will assist you In providing advice to your staff on COVID-19, how to help prevent the spread of respiratory infections, what to do if someone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 has been in business settings and actions to take if staff come into contact with someone who is self-isolating or is a possible or confirmed case of COVID-19