

25 March 2020

Briefing Note

CECA Member Briefing:

Covid-19: CECA update

Introduction

This short briefing has been prepared on behalf of the UK construction sector to brief companies and individuals on the ongoing repercussions of the Covid-19 coronavirus for our sector. This briefing will be delivered daily by CECA over the coming weeks – if you would like further information, or to input your views, contact CECA chief executive Alasdair Reisner on 07977151912 or e-mail alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk.

Site Operating Procedures

The Cabinet Office has confirmed that construction in England can continue as long *as it can be done safely AND in accordance with the Public Health England guidance*. The latest Construction Leadership Council Site Operating Procedures (SOP) align with the latest Public Health England guidance - click [here](#) to read it. As this guidance changes, the SOP will be updated. If for any reason sites and companies are not able to comply with the PHE guidance, then they must cease activities until they can. The latest guidance on working during the current period of restrictions, published by UK Government last night, is available [here](#).

NHS London Hospitals

NHS London Hospitals have made the following request for supplies from industry. If members are able to source any of the following please contact alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk:

- FFP3 masks
- Full face visors (transparent and either disposable or reusable)
- Safety goggles and glasses
- Hand sanitizer
- Haz mat / full body suits.

Extra protection for businesses with ban on evictions for commercial tenants

Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent because of coronavirus will be protected from eviction. More information is available [here](#).

COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility – Now open for applications

Under the new COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility, the Bank of England will buy short term debt from larger companies. All non-financial companies that meet the criteria set out on [the Bank of England's website](#) are eligible. The scheme is now available for applications. [More information](#) is available from the Bank of England.

Travel within London

Making non-essential journeys risks lives. Please only travel if your journey is absolutely essential. If you are a key worker and your journey is absolutely essential, the busiest times are 05.45-07:30 and 16:00-17:30. If possible, please avoid these times, for the safety of passengers and staff.

CITB - Support for Apprentices

CITB is paying, in advance, apprenticeship attendance grants for second and third year apprentices to help keep skills in the construction industry amid the Coronavirus outbreak. The payments will be made from 6 April for apprentices

already subject to CITB grant support and who are currently in the second or third year of their apprenticeship for the remainder of the year. The payments are expected to be able to support 7,500 apprentices, and will advance up to £2,500 in attendance grant at a time when retaining apprentices is critical. To read the press release on this please click [here](#).

CITB has worked with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to discuss funding rules on breaks in learning for apprentices. ESFA have issued guidance for apprentices, employers and training providers, you can read the guidance [here](#).

A dedicated email helpline for all apprentices and their employers providing advice and signposting during COVID-19 has been set-up by CITB. Please e-mail Apprenticeships.COVID19@citb.co.uk for assistance.

HS&E App

CITB has developed a free app so employers can run their own in-house interim testing. The app will give employers a level of local assurance to help them determine if an employee is safe to work on their site. The app will be available to download from app stores shortly. A PC download version is available [here](#), under the HS&E Test heading. The app will give breathing space to employers during the temporary closure of all Pearson Vue HS&E test centres and the suspension of testing throughout our Independent Test Centre (ITC) network.

New Employer Support Database

Today CITB will launch a database with useful information and links to help employers during the COVID-19 crisis. To view CITB's COVID-19 updates page, including information on Grants, Funding and the NCC, click [here](#).

CECA Employment Briefing - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

Read CECA's Employment Briefing on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme [here](#). Please note this briefing will be updated as further information becomes available.

CECA Employment Briefing - Coronavirus

Read CECA's Employment Briefing on the impacts of Covid-19 [here](#).

CECA Training & Development Update

Read CECA's Training & Development Update in reference to coronavirus [here](#).

Beale & Co Webinar

Beale & Co are holding a webinar on 'COVID-19: Mitigating Impacts on Construction Projects' on Monday 30 March 2020, 12.30pm-1.30pm. Click [here](#) to register. Please note places are limited so register your interest early.

National Assembly for Wales - Coronavirus: Bill Summary, 24 March 2020

On Tuesday 24 March the Assembly debated and voted on giving consent to the UK Government's Coronavirus Bill. This Bill Summary provides more information on the provisions in the Bill and their implications for Wales. The Bill will be considered in the House of Lords today, before returning to the House of Commons. Click [here](#) for more information.

Welsh Government

[Guidance](#) on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Planning Inspectorate Wales Update

The Planning Inspectorate is cancelling all previously arranged site visits with immediate effect - click [here](#) for more.

Your feedback is vital – [new survey 23 March](#)

The construction industry's federations are in regular dialogue with representatives from the UK Government to discuss the impact of Covid-19. To support this work we need feedback from businesses as to how they are affected by the pandemic. Please take 5 minutes to fill in this survey to ensure that this work is supported by the most up-to-date feedback from industry. The new survey can be found [here](#).

For more information, please contact CECA Chief Executive Alasdair Reisner on 07977 151912 or e-mail alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk