

8 April 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.

Support the fight against Coronavirus

The UK Government has asked industry to offer support to those fighting coronavirus. If your business can offer support in any of the following circumstances:

- Protective equipment for healthcare workers, such as masks, gowns, and sanitiser;
- Hotel rooms;
- Transport and logistics, for moving goods or people;
- Manufacturing equipment;
- Warehouse or office space, for medical use or storage;
- Expert advice or consultancy on IT, manufacturing, construction, project management, procurement, or engineering;
- Social care or childcare;
- Community support.

Please use [this link](#) to offer your help.

New Government Guidance - Social Distancing In The Workplace - Construction (Published 7 April 2020)

Last night the Government published [new guidance](#) on social distancing in the workplace, including the following sector-specific advice:

“Construction work plays an important role in ensuring public safety and the provision of public services. It can continue if done in accordance with the social distancing guidelines wherever possible.

“Where it is not possible to follow the social distancing guidelines in full in relation to a particular activity, you should consider whether that activity needs to continue for the site to continue to operate, and, if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission.

“If you decide the work should go ahead, you should advise staff to wash their hands frequently using soap and water for 20 seconds, and especially after blowing their nose, sneezing or coughing, on arrival at work, before and after eating, after using public transport, and when they arrive home. Where facilities to wash hands are not available, hand sanitiser should be used.

“You should still advise staff to keep 2 metres apart as much as possible.

“You should plan work to minimise contact between workers and avoid skin-to-skin and face-to-face contact. Where face-to-face contact is essential, this should be kept to 15 minutes or less wherever possible.

“As much as possible, keep groups of workers working together in teams that are as small as possible (cohorting). For example, you keep vehicle crews working together, rather than mixing crew members on different shifts. Staff should also wash their hands each time before getting into enclosed machinery (such as diggers) with others, and wash their hands every time they

get out. To help with this, you should consider adding additional pop-up handwashing stations or facilities, providing soap, water and/or hand sanitiser.

"Employees should keep the windows of enclosed machinery or enclosed spaces open for ventilation and be careful to avoid touching their face at all times. The inside of cabs should be regularly cleaned, particularly between use by different operators.

"You should try to use stairs in preference to lifts or hoists. Where lifts or hoists must be used, you should lower their capacity to reduce congestion and contact at all times, and regularly clean touchpoints, such as doors and buttons.

"To protect your staff, you should remind colleagues daily to only come into work if they are well and no one in their household is self-isolating.

"The Construction Leadership Council has published [more detailed advice](#) on how you might carry out government guidance.

"Additional useful information for firms can be accessed on [BuildUK's website](#)."

Construction Industry Task Force - Government-Backed Loans Research

A sub-group of the Construction Industry Coronavirus Task Force is undertaking a review of the current Government backed loan schemes and the industry experience of them. The outcome of the research will be have an evidence based picture to understand applicability and take up of the schemes, along with a series of recommendations which could range from variations on the products offered, to better support and advice to businesses in the sector in the form of a CLC guidance note. CECA members are requested to give input on:

- Intelligence/feedback from individual businesses in relation to the Government backed loan schemes to support ongoing evidence gathering
- Whether they would be willing to discuss their experience of Government-backed loan schemes (either Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme or Covid Corporate Financing Facility) in a potential interview or written case study.

It is expected that the outcome of this research to be brought back to the Taskforce within the next two weeks for review and endorsement. If you are a CECA member and would like to input into this work, or to discuss further, please contact CECA chief executive Alasdair Reisner - alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk.

CECA Workload Trends Survey 2020 Q1

CECA's Workload Trends Survey for 2020 Q1 is now live. The deadline for the survey is the close of business on 4 May 2020 - please complete it so we can gather the most accurate picture of the current state of our industry and feed back to Government and other stakeholders. The survey is available [here](#).

CECA Webinar for Members - Covid-19 - 9 April 2020

Please click [here](#) to register for a CECA National webinar for members at 2.00pm on Thursday (9 April 2020). Once you register your place, you will be sent your invitation to the event. We recommend logging on at least 5-10 minutes prior to the event to make sure you can log in. The lobby will open 5 minutes prior to the event starting. If you do not receive an invitation e-mail, please check your spam and clutter folders. If you have any queries, e-mail jemma@ceca-yorks.co.uk.

Please note that the Government has confirmed that furloughed workers can take part in webinars whilst they are furloughed.

Coronavirus Job Retention scheme – (CLC Guidance first issued on 31 March and updated on 7 April)

Industry advice on the UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention scheme was published last week. Now further details have been added to the advice to pick up some more frequently asked questions. The updated guidance can be found [here](#).

Supply of products & materials

The Builders Merchant Federation has compiled a list of companies that are still trading and open to builders during this time. The list of open/closed Builder's Merchants can be found [here](#) and a list of open/closed suppliers can be found [here](#).

The Construction Products Association has surveyed their respective members to determine their operational status in response to the Covid-19 virus. A summary for the status of the CPA's largest company members can be found [here](#).

CITB Funding

CITB is extending the advanced apprenticeship grant payment to include higher level apprentices in the final year of their programme and are close to completing their apprenticeship in England and Wales, or a key level within it in Scotland. This will maximise the opportunity for these learners to qualify and add value to industry – you can apply [here](#).

Mental health support

Industry mental health charity Mates in Mind is working in partnership with CECA to deliver free mental wellbeing workshops. These workshops are aimed at employees; and managers (including supervisors). The live online workshops will take place on 15,16, and 21 April, and will be delivered by trained mental health practitioners. Delegates will be able to see and interact with the tutor and with each other:

Mental Wellbeing Workshop for Employees (45 minutes)

- Understand how the current environment impacts our mental health and wellbeing
- Identify ways in which to spot issues in ourselves and our colleagues
- Explore how to look out for your own wellbeing as well as our co-workers
- Understand how to support someone in crisis and have a better understanding of relevant professional support services available to us.

Mental Wellbeing Workshop for Managers (60 minutes)

- Identify the pressures facing their teams during the current climate and identify how they can affect their mental health
- Recognise how managers can spot the signs and issues and know what to say and do
- Identify how to help someone in crisis
- Provide details of organisations and support services that can provide help, information and advice
- Provide some guidance on what managers / supervisors can do to look after their own mental health

Anticipating level of interest, places are initially limited to 2 delegates per organisation. We have confirmed that furloughed employees are allowed to take part in this training without affecting their furloughed status. Book your place [here](#).

Covid-19 Webinars

ACE has announced a new online webinar series to help its members and the wider industry through the coronavirus crisis. Hosted by ACE chief executive Hannah Vickers, Navigating COVID-19 covers the major issues currently facing our industry including finance, people, communications and procurement. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask virtual questions to the panel of experts on specific announcements, such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme or Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. The webinars are open to anyone with an interest in the topics covered. Sign-up now to upcoming webinars through the links below:

Communicating in a Crisis (09.04.20, 1.30pm)

With special guest [Andy Walker](#), editor of *Infrastructure Intelligence*, we will explore the steps you need to take to communicate effectively externally, internally and with stakeholders and clients. [Stuart Young](#), BEIS joins us to help answer any questions.

Find out more and replay previous episodes [here](#).

CECA Training & Development Update (2 April 2020)

Read CECA's latest training & development update in reference to Covid-19 [here](#).

Training & Development E-Resources

Click [here](#) for a list of CITB-supported training & development e-resources.

[CECA Employment Briefing - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(Updated 31 March\)](#)

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](#).

[New CECA Guidance \(30 March\) - Temporary Suspension of Sites](#)

CECA has published new guidance on the temporary suspension of sites. Read it [here](#).