This is a summary of key government and industry guidelines relating to coronavirus for the construction industry in England. This includes both UK wide and England specific measures. Highlighted items link to the detailed underlying statements or documents.

16.04.20	15.04.20	14.04.20
Dominic Raab confirmed the UK lockdown has been <u>extended</u> for at least three weeks.	 The CLC published Version 3 of the Site Operating Procedures. Key changes in Version 3 include: Confirmation that the HSE is the enforcing authority for PHE guidelines Sites need to monitor the implementation of the procedures Further details on who should not travel to work Guidance for those who have no option but to share transport to work Information on the hierarchy of controls which should be implemented to reduce the risk of transmission where social distancing of 2 metres cannot be achieved HM Treasury announced the extension of the eligibility date of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) from 28 February to 19 March 2020.	The Construction Industry Training Bo announced the launch of the Leadership and Management. Development Fund. The fund enable large construction companies (with m than 250 directly employed staff) to invest in developing the leadership, management or supervisory skills of th staff.



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08.04.20

Letter from Business, Energy & Industrial Secretary Alok Sharma to manufacturing sector stated "there is no restriction on manufacturing continuing"

The CLC issued a joint **<u>statement</u>** with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Infrastructure and Projects Authority. The statement called for construction businesses to pay in accordance with agreed contractual terms.

07.04.20

The UK Government issued **Guidance Notes** for Construction Contracts relating to Procurement Policy Note 02/20. It is addressed to the public sector and contains model deeds of variation for both NEC3 and JCT standard form contracts.

Public Health England issued new guidance on social distancing in the workplace and stated the following in relation to construction:

- -If it is not possible to follow the social distancing guidelines in full in relation to a particular activity, consider whether that activity needs to continue for site to operate.
- —Where face-to-face contact is essential, keep it to 15 minutes or less wherever possible

06.04.20

The UK Government published guidance on the Coronavirus Job Retention **Scheme.** In order to claim one must have:

- -Created and started a PAYE payroll scheme on or before 28 February;
- —Enrolled for PAYE online; and
- —Have a UK bank account
- —The UK Government **extended the <u>CBILS</u>** (see entry above) so that all viable small businesses affected, not just those unable to secure regular commercial financing, will now be eligible should they need finance to keep operating.
- —The UK Government introduced **the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme**
- (CLBILS). The UK government will provide a guarantee of 80% to enable banks to make loans of up to £25 million to firms with an annual turnover between £45 million and £500 million. The loans will be at a commercial rate of interest.

02.04.20

Site Operating Procedures – Version 2 was published and withdrawn. Version 1 to continue to apply.

01.04.20

The CLC wrote a **letter** to the Prime Minister to demand the following:

- —Suspending PAYE & CIS tax due to HMRC in April and May
- —Deferring/cancelling Apprenticeship Levy payments due for the duration of the crisis
- -Encouraging all public sector clients, regulated utilities and firms in the private sector working on public infrastructure to expedite cashflow through the supply chain
- -Support for the Directors of microbusinesses
- -Retention release
- -Extend the £25k SME business continuity grants scheme to the construction sector



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31.03.20

Letter from Business, Energy & Industrial Secretary Alok Sharma to construction industry stated:

- -Construction workers can continue to work
- —Follow the Construction Leadership Council's Site Operating Procedures when doing so

UK Government issued Guidance "Remediation and COVID-19: Building Safety update":

-It reiterates that building sites for remediation works do not have to close, so work can continue if it is safely done.

The CLC prepared template of a letter regarding travel to work (last link under "Advice for Businesses") that firms can adopt and adapt to issue to their workforces.

30.03.20

The CLC issued advice on how to safely temporarily shut down sites.

It reiterated that there is currently no law requiring a contractor to do so.

29.03.20

The Cabinet Office issued updated Guidance "Guidance:" Staying at home and away from others (social **distancing)**. Where people are working onsite, employers should ensure that employees are able to follow Public Health England **guidelines** including, where possible, maintaining a 2 metres distance from others, and washing their hands with soap and water often and for at least 20 seconds (or using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water is not available).

26.03.20

The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) **Regulations** 2020 came into force. They introduced measures including:

- —People have to remain in their homes and can only leave for essential business (such as to obtain basic necessities, take exercise and travel for the purposes of work where it is not reasonably possible for that person to work from home.
- -Restaurants and all types of leisure sites and businesses, pubs, bars, theatres, gyms, etc. have to close
- —Listed businesses (e.g. supermarkets, builders merchants) that remain open are required to implement 2m distancing
- -Contravening these measures is a criminal offence leading to a fine. This applies to individuals and officers of a body corporate.

Note: None of these measures directly restrict work on construction sites

UK Cabinet Office issued Model Interim Payment Terms to

supplement the earlier guidance on supplier relief.

UK Chancellor announced that selfemployed people could apply for grant worth 80% of their average monthly profits over the last 3 years up to £2,500/month.

25.03.20

Coronavirus Act 2020 came into force across the UK.



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24.03.20

Michael Gove stated that builders should turn up to construction sites if:

—the sites are out in the open; or

—if the sites are on private property and essential work needs to be done.

Matt Hancock stated that when it comes to construction, work could continue if workers stood 2 metres apart from each other.

23.03.20

The **Prime Minister** announced a **lockdown**, including on travelling to and from work:

—Unless absolutely necessary; and —Work cannot be done from home

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) went live

(Loan up to £5m, interest free for 12 months).

UK social distancing **<u>guide</u>** was published (including specific reference to site workers).

Communities Secretary, Robert Jenrick stated:

- —In England and Wales it is possible to continue working on construction sites
- —Workers will have to follow the social distancing guidelines

The CLC & Build UK released 'Site Operating Procedures' report.

20.03.20

The UK Government issued Procurement Policy Note 02/20: Supplier relief due to COVID-19. It

was addressed to the public sector and seeks to ensure that payments are made to ensure business continuity for the suppliers.

Department of Education <u>announced</u> closure of school.

18.03.20

The Prime Minister announced:

- -People should be working from home where possible
- ---People should only leave the home in order to purchase food or medicine

17.03.20

Construction Leadership Council (CLC) sent a <u>letter</u> to the Prime Minister asking for construction sites to be kept open.



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16.03.20	5.03.20
The <u>Prime Minister</u> delivered his first COVID-19 Briefing Statement.	First Coronavirus death in England
He advised that:	
 —There should be no mass gatherings —To avoid pubs, clubs and theatres —To avoid unnecessary travel 	