

Practical tips for businesses planning a safe return to work

The Government is advising that businesses take the following [5 practical steps](#) to help keep employees and customers safe in the workplace:

1. Carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment
2. Develop cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures
3. Help people to work from home
4. Maintain 2m social distancing, where possible
5. Where people cannot be 2m apart, manage transmission risk

Employers should also read all the guides relevant to your workplace environment, including [offices](#), [vehicles](#) and [branches](#).

Businesses are continuing to access support packages

HMRC is [publishing weekly data](#) to show the number of businesses and individuals claiming from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme.

During the past week a further 14,000 businesses have furloughed 400,000 more employees, taking the total numbers on furlough to 8.4 million, with one million businesses now using the scheme.

Later this week, the Chancellor is expected to announce how the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will work when it expires in its current format at the end of July, providing some much-needed certainty to businesses facing tough decisions.

Those claiming from the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme rose by 300,000 during the past week, taking the total number to 2.3 million.