

### **HMRC hosts webinar on new flexible furlough scheme**

Members can [register to attend](#) an hour-long HMRC webinar on 'The Extension to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and flexible furloughing'. There are four time slots to choose from. Two on Thursday 18 and two on Friday 19 June.

[Guidance on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) has been updated to reflect how the scheme is changing.

### **Government video on running your business during Covid-19 is updated**

The [YouTube video for 'Running your business through the coronavirus pandemic'](#) has been updated. The video gives an overview of the support available to help businesses deal with the economic impact of coronavirus including:

- deferral of VAT and Income Tax payments
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- HMRC Time to Pay Scheme

### **Latest ONS figures indicate working from home still prevalent**

Latest [Office for National Statistics figures](#) show that just under 4 in 10 adults in employment (37%) said they had left their home to travel to and from work in the past seven days, decreasing from 40% the previous week.

The largest increase in reasons for leaving the home this week is for meeting up with people in a personal place, such as visiting friends or family at home, up to 19% compared with 8% last week.

### **Expenses for employees travelling to a temporary workplace**

HMRC advice on [How to treat certain expenses and benefits provided to employees during Covid-19](#) has been updated to include guidance on paying travel and subsistence expenses to an employee travelling to a temporary workplace.

### **Further restriction lifted and social bubbles introduced**

[Social distancing guidance](#) and [FAQs on what you can and cannot do](#) have been updated to include new rules on support bubbles. Other restrictions that have been lifted today include the ability to visit more shops, outdoor attractions and places of worship.

“[Bubbling](#)” describes a policy where people living in small, non-overlapping, groups of households are permitted to mix with one another, effectively creating one large household out of two or more smaller households. No person can be a member of more than one bubble.

[Minutes taken from the SAGE meeting on 14 May](#) show that the Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies (SAGE) advised the Government against introducing social bubbles at a time when other distancing measures have only just been lifted, or in conjunction with the release of other measures. SAGE also published a paper on the [behavioural considerations of bubbles](#) on 14 May.

### **Reproduction ‘R’ rate figures explained**

[According to the latest data on 12 June](#), the average R rate in the UK was 0.7-0.9. All but one English county shows an average reported R rate with a range that reaches or exceeds 1.0.

The lowest reported average was in the East of England with an R rate of 0.7-0.9. The South West had the highest reported figure at 0.8-1.1.

When a region has an R-rate range exceeding 1, it does not necessarily mean the epidemic is increasing in that region, just that the uncertainty in the data means it cannot be ruled out. It is also possible that an outbreak in one place could result in an R above 1 for the whole region.

### **NHS test and trace alerts**

The Government has updated its guidance on [NHS test and trace: How it works](#) to include the new details of where the text alert will come from. Previously it came from ‘NHS’ but now it will come from ‘NHStracing’.