

### **Free Covid recovery advice for small firms**

The Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy is reminding small businesses to make use of the [Recovery Advice for Business scheme](#) that gives small firms access to free, one-to-one advice from an expert adviser.

The scheme, which is designed to help businesses through the coronavirus pandemic and to prepare for long-term recovery, is supported by the government and hosted on the [Enterprise Nation website](#).

### **Updated guide to operating during Covid-19**

The [BVRLA Guide to Operating during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#) has been updated to include new Government guidance for businesses on reporting coronavirus cases.

### **Updated FAQs for rental and leasing customers**

The BVRLA's [FAQs for rental and leasing customers](#) has been updated to include the latest information on how the sector is getting back to business. It provides advice on what to expect when renting or leasing a vehicle and what changes to anticipate. Members may want to share these with customers.

### **New grants to boost small business recovery**

The Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government has today [announced](#) a £20 million new fund to help businesses get back on track. Small and medium sized businesses in England can access grants between £1,000 - £5,000 for new equipment, technology and specialist advice.

### **Government campaign launched to encourage testing**

NHS Test and Trace has today [launched its 'Let's Get Back' campaign](#) to encourage everyone with symptoms to get a free test. The campaign forms part of a new [business plan](#) to expand testing capacity and prepare the nation for winter.

### **7-day self-isolation period extended to 10 days**

The Government has today [extended the self-isolation period](#) from 7 days to 10 for those in the community who have Covid-19 symptoms or a positive test result.

This follows the emergence of evidence that shows that people with Covid-19 who are mildly ill and are recovering have a low but real possibility of infectiousness between 7 and 9 days after illness onset.

### **Government Skills Toolkit aims to boost digital and numeracy skills**

The Department for Education's [Skills Toolkit](#) provides a range of free training resources to help upskill people in the areas of digital and numeracy as an increasing number of people are entering the job market or changing roles due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are introductory, intermediary and advanced courses ranging from *an introduction to getting confident online* to more *advanced digital skills* for use in the workplace. These are all short courses that can be completed at home.

### **Latest transport usage figures**

The Government's [weekly transport usage figures](#) show that whilst the number of commercial vehicles on the road are back to normal pre-pandemic levels, car usage is only back to normal levels at weekends, with midweek figures sitting at around 80-88% of pre-Covid levels.

In contrast, National rail and London underground usage is returning slowly, with passenger levels at around a quarter of pre-pandemic levels midweek and under a third at weekends.

### **Latest ONS figures on economic impact of coronavirus**

The Office for National Statistics has published its latest [data from the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey](#); a 2-weekly survey designed to estimate the impact over the previous 2 weeks and the expectations for the following 2 weeks.