



Following the announcements on Monday that businesses should start to look at a return to work, the HSE has produced a guide for employers around working safely. This can be found at : <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/working-safely-during-coronavirus-outbreak.htm> It includes some practical steps employers can take.

There is also a risk assessment template here: <https://www.hseni.gov.uk/publications/example-covid-19-risk-assessment-template>

And some cleaning advice here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

On a bigger scale this film shows how a manufacturer has adapted its workplace practices to keep its staff safe : [click](#)

More information regarding the furlough scheme is expected over the next few weeks, but for now we know that the scheme will continue until the end of October, with employees continuing to receive 80% of their current salary, up to £2,500. Flexibility will be introduced from August to get employees back to work – and it is this detail we are waiting for.

The Business Growth Hub has launched a new series of workshops aimed at helping businesses during the current situation. They are interactive group sessions, designed to help SMEs overcome the difficulties presented by COVID19, whilst offering practical advice and guidance on the steps you can take in your own business. Attendees will benefit from specialist, up to date advice, peer to peer learning and be able to engage with businesses going through the same challenges. There will be a question and answer session at the end so that every attendee has the chance to ask for advice specific to their own circumstances.

The workshops will cover the following six topics:

- **Strategy**
- **Finance and Government COVID related schemes**
- **Marketing strategy**
- **Digital marketing**
- **Leadership through challenging times**
- **Supply chain management**

These workshops are available to any Greater Manchester based SME and attendance at the workshops is by registration only, as the sessions will be interactive and only for a limited number of attendees.

The links for these can be found at <https://www.businessgrowthhub.com/coronavirus/strive-and-thrive-workshop-series> and they will be repeated on a 2 weekly cycle to try and ensure as many businesses as possible can sign up.

The Department for International Trade (DIT) North West remains ready to support your business, and can be contacted by phone on 0333 320 0392 or by email at [info@tradenw.org](mailto:info@tradenw.org). They have launched a series of webinars to help businesses through the current situation on a range of topics, including:

- Managing disruption of supply chains during COVID-19
- Logistics and movement of goods during COVID-19
- Managing overseas agents and distributions during COVID-19
- Risk management when considering new markets
- Routes to Market

Find out more and register your place [here](#).

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We are still waiting for final details from the Government regarding the next phase of grant funding. However, eligible businesses can now apply and the applications will be assessed and held until we are given the green light. This funding is **only** for businesses who operate from multi-occupied properties, paying a combined rates and rent fee to their landlord, and who have not been in receipt of any of the other grant funding, or the self-employment income support scheme. More information and the application form can be found: <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/business-and-industry/business-advice-and-support/Pages/business-grants-and-loans.aspx>

There will be a delay in making the payments as we need Government confirmation.

Regards

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