



## COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE 23/03/2020

We want to provide our partners with a daily COVID-19 update.

Over the weekend and today, further actions have been announced:

- The Prime Minister will be speaking later this evening about new measures.
- Local government will be responsible for enforcing regulations requiring those businesses asked to close on 20 March 2020, in new guidance issued. Businesses including pubs, cinemas, theatres and casinos were told to close from 21 March. Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers, with police support if appropriate, will work together to issue prohibition notices challenging unsafe behaviours where businesses do not follow these restrictions.
- The NHS will be contacting 1.5 million of the most vulnerable people and advising them to stay at home for a minimum of 12 weeks in new 'shielding' actions
- Local hubs will created supported by a major national effort will create a support system for the [most vulnerable](#) – including pharmacists, supermarkets and local authorities, delivering medicines and essential groceries.
- The Prime Minister stated the [social distancing](#) measures should be followed, otherwise stricter measures may be needed.
- Today, the government launched a section on it's national business support website for the COVID-19 [support measures](#) introduced.
- £500,000 of funding is available for technology companies who come up with digital support solutions for people who need to stay

at home because of coronavirus. Funding of up to £25,000 per company is available. For more information on the programme and how to apply, visit [techforce19.uk](http://techforce19.uk).

- [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme](#) (CBILS) has launched today supporting small and medium-sized businesses with access to loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to six years.
- [Covid-19 Corporate Financing Facility](#) also launched today, the Bank of England will buy short-term debt from larger companies.
- A [webinar](#) is taking place on Wednesday explaining the CBILS process.

### **Cheshire and Warrington Updates**

- The LEP is working closely with local authorities and government.
- A one page flyer is being sent from the LEP and Growth Hub outlining the support available to businesses, with information about support available. This is in partnership with the three local authorities. It will be posted and sent electronically and will be shared when available.
- Local authorities have issued releases about the sub-regional responses being undertaken with the LEP, Growth Hub, Chambers and BIDs.
- A [survey](#) has been created to gather business intelligence.
- Updates are on the Growth Hub [website](#), being updated daily.
- The Growth Hub are also sending regular newsletters, which can be [signed up to here](#). One will be sent in the next few days.
- Marketing Cheshire have created a [guide](#) for their members and the wider retail, leisure, hospitality and tourism sector businesses.

### **Useful Links**

- <http://candwgrowthhub.co.uk/covid-19/>
- [www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response](http://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response)

