

# TRADING STANDARDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COVID-19 BUSINESS GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION

MAY 2020

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation evolves, for many of you it may be creating some uncertainty. We understand that it is having a massive impact on businesses across the UK, and hope that you find the following information useful.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) RULES ON GOING TO WORK



Trading Standards and Environmental Health Officers are authorised to carry out duties under The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020. The Scottish Government have amended the regulations and published new guidance in respect of this. One of several changes to the legislation is that social distancing measures to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) now apply to **all** businesses and services.

The amendment regulations and guidance can be found in the links below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2020/126/regulation/2/made>

<https://www.gov.scot/news/social-distancing-regulations-strengthened/>

As a result, our service is receiving an increasing amount of calls about businesses who can continue to operate, and enquiries from those who are considering re-opening.

During these difficult and challenging times, the advice to businesses in Scotland about re-opening has NOT yet changed, as the situation changes, the legislation and list of business which should remain closed will be updated in the link below. If you are on this list, YOU MUST remain closed until the guidance states otherwise.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-business-and-physical-distancing-guidance/pages/businesses-and-premises-which-must-close/>

If you are not on this list, or are unsure if you are legally allowed to re-open, then we would urge businesses to read the [Scottish Government business and physical distancing guidance](#) and in particular their statement on essential services. If you are still unclear whether you should open please contact Trading Standards and Environmental Health for further advice and to establish that appropriate social distancing measures are in place to ensure everyone's safety.

Scottish Government guidance stipulates:

***“Work carried out in people’s homes, for example by tradespeople carrying out repairs and maintenance, can continue, provided that the tradesperson is well and is not showing coronavirus symptoms and neither they nor any of their household are self-isolating. Again, it will be important to ensure that NHS Inform guidelines, including maintaining a 2 metre distance from any household occupants, are followed to ensure everyone’s safety”.***



***All individuals and businesses that are not being specifically required to close should consider a key set of questions– and at all times work on the precautionary basis:***

- ✓ ***is what you do essential or material to the effort against the virus or to the wellbeing of society?***
- ✓ ***if so, can your staff work from home?***
- ✓ ***if not, can you practise safe social distancing and comply with ALL other standard health and safety requirements?***

As further information, guidance and advice become available, the link below will continue to be updated:  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others-social-distancing/pages/going-to-work/>

## WORKING SAFELY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Health & Safety Executive (HSE) have issued new guidance which is aimed at all employers and those who are self-employed and work with or near to other people. It explains how you can protect people from COVID-19 in your workplace. Further information can be found here: [https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/assets/docs/working-safely-guide.pdf?utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=coronavirus&utm\\_term=working-safely-3&utm\\_content=construction-14-may-20](https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/assets/docs/working-safely-guide.pdf?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_term=working-safely-3&utm_content=construction-14-may-20)

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

British Standards Institute (BSI) have produced a guide to masks and face coverings for use in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic. Click here for further details: <https://www.bsigroup.com/globalassets/localfiles/en-gb/product-certification/personal-safety/bsi-guide-for-personal-safety-equipment-0520.pdf>

They have also raised awareness that some traders are making illegal claims about PPE products and have been notified that a number of manufacturers are selling medical face masks and other PPE products on the back of false certificates: <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/about-bsi/media-centre/press-releases/2020/february/warning-fake-certificate-for-medical-face-masks/>

BSI recommend that prior to purchasing any form of safety equipment supported by a certificate appearing to be issued by them to verify it through their directory here: <https://verifeyedirectory.bsigroup.com/>

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) - FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE AVAILABLE

Business support services across South Ayrshire Council are working hard to collate comprehensive lists of information and advice relating to COVID-19, including Funding and Supports Grants that businesses may be eligible for, plus many free online webinars and tutorials.

South Ayrshire Council's **Economy and Regeneration** team continues to provide updated information, which can be found here: [COVID-19 Business Support](#)

They have also created Business Beat, which is a series of articles offering hints, tips and information on how your business may be able to weather the storm of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Further information can be found here: <https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/19633/Business-Beat>



**Business Gateway** has an excellent information list which is updated as information becomes available.

You can access this information and download the PDF document via the link here:

<https://www.bgateway.com/resources/finance-and-grant-announcements>

## Coronavirus (COVID -19) SCAMS



As our communities deal with uncertainty and isolation, there has been a rapid increase in the variety of scams related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Trading Standards Scotland has created a weekly e-bulletin to protect consumers and support legitimate businesses across Scotland, which you can find here: <https://mailchi.mp/aa1816164843/scam-share>

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

You can visit South Ayrshire Council's Facebook page [here](#) for regular updates on a number of Council services, and guidance for businesses during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

South Ayrshire Council also produce a monthly interactive e-magazine, South Ayrshire Council Live, which provides information and updates on what's new in your Council and your community. The latest version can be found here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/south-ayrshire-council-live/>

Our Trading Standards Service also operates a reputable Trusted Trader scheme. If you are interested in becoming a member, or are looking for a business to carry out work, then visit our website: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/trusted-trader/>

**For further coronavirus (COVID-19) advice please contact Trading Standards and Environmental Health on:**

**Phone: 0300 123 0900**

**Email: [Environmental.Health@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Environmental.Health@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**