

27 April 2020

# Briefing Note

CECA Scotland Member Briefing:

## COVID-19 - CECA SCOTLAND UPDATE

### Introduction

CECA Scotland will be producing regular updates to keep member companies updated on new developments relating to the Covid-19 coronavirus and its impact on the Scottish civils sector. This briefing will be delivered daily and posted on our website. If you would like further information or to share your experiences about how COVID-19 is impacting on your business, contact our Chief Executive, Grahame Barn: 07976 199615 or [grahame@cecascotland.co.uk](mailto:grahame@cecascotland.co.uk).

### Coronavirus Testing for Key Workers

Guidance on [who can access the expanded coronavirus testing programme in Scotland](#) has been published by the Scottish Government, including details on [testing for key workers in Scotland](#) (25 April 2020). Testing will now be available to all workers “critical to the sustained functioning of the economy and public services”, including workers in critical national infrastructure (such as energy and water supply) and those involved in delivering other essential services, including essential construction.

Testing is being conducted in drive-through sites operating at Glasgow Airport, Edinburgh Airport, Aberdeen Airport and the University of the Highlands and Islands campus in Inverness. There is also a limited home testing option. Test results from the drive-through sites will be sent out by text within 48hrs, and within 72hrs of collection of the home delivery tests.

**Employer portal - How to Register:** Eligible employers can register and refer staff for appointments. To obtain a login, email [portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk). You must supply two email addresses that will primarily be used to load key worker contact details. Once details have been verified, two login credentials will be issued for portal. Employers should then login at <https://coronavirus-invite-testing.service.gov.uk/DaraTestDemand/Login> to refer.

**Self-referral portal:** Key workers can also self-refer at: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/> if you or a member of your family, is symptomatic. Any questions from employers or key workers about accessing testing, the website, or results should be made by emailing: [opshub@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:opshub@dhsc.gov.uk)

### For further details:

- Access the full Scottish Government guidance [here](#).
- Download the Scottish Government Testing Prioritisation Matrix [here](#).

### Furloughed Workers & Parental Leave

Furloughed workers planning to take family related leave will be entitled to pay based on their usual earnings rather than a furloughed pay rate. This means that full earnings will apply to the calculation of Maternity Pay, Paternity Pay, Shared Parental Pay, Parental Bereavement Pay and Adoption Pay, ensuring workers about to take family related leave are not penalised for being furloughed. Find out more [here](#).

### Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Claims

HMRC have advised that payments for claims made on Monday 20 April will be in employers' bank accounts by tomorrow (28 April). Payments should arrive six working days from when you claimed. If you have not yet made a claim, you can still claim online for a grant for 80% of your furloughed employees' salaries, up to a maximum of £2,500 per employee, per month and you will receive the funds six working days after you claim, provided your claim matches records that we hold for your PAYE scheme. Please read all the [available guidance](#) before you apply.

### Free Online Courses

Skills Development Scotland have updated their 'My World of Work' website to help furloughed workers and others seeking career or personal development during lockdown, to access free courses. This new service has been developed with the support of the Open University in Scotland and highlights free courses run by 12 providers in areas including digital technology, business studies, and languages. Visit the website [here](#).

### International Workers Memorial Day

International Workers Memorial Day is tomorrow, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. A minute's silence will be held at 11am to remember and honour all key workers who have lost their lives in the battle against Coronavirus, and all who have died at work or from work related diseases. [#IWMD20](#)

### Scottish Government Advice

The Scottish Government's latest COVID-19 advice for businesses can be read here: <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice>. For issues not dealt with on the website, call the Scottish Government [Helpline](#) on 0300 303 0660.

**HMRC Tax Helpline:** 0800 024 1222, open 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information please contact Grahame Barn on [grahame@cecascotland.co.uk](mailto:grahame@cecascotland.co.uk)