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|  | 27th March 2020 |
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Sent to: All heads of regulatory services in England (TS & EH), Regional Coordinators, Product Safety Leads

**Covid 19 business closures v.3 – revised regulations now live**

Dear colleague,

The new Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 were published last night - [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/350/contents/made](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/NS6FC4xgDSBAJQixBhBv?domain=eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com). This brings into force the measures announced by the Prime Minister on Monday. These revoke the previous Health Protection (Coronavirus Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020.  Guidance on business closure can be found at [gov.uk/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance).

The Coronavirus Restrictions Regulations allocate enforcement responsibilities to local authorities and their designated officers in relation to the requirements placed on businesses. It is anticipated that local authorities will allocate responsibility for enforcing the requirements in respect of business closures and restrictions to their environmental health and trading standards teams.  You are well placed to lead this work as you are already have strong relationships with local business and business representatives and you understand how to work with them to ensure that they the doing their bit to protect the public and the NHS.

As Local Authority Trading Standards and Environmental Health services, you have an important role to play in leading the work on business closures- protecting the public and our NHS.  We appreciate your hard work during these challenging times. This is an opportunity to demonstrate the vital work you do on the frontline, supporting businesses, in a proportionate way, that delivers protection.

It is important that businesses are clear on what to do and are dealt with fairly and in a proportionate way - you are best placed to do this.  The Police should now have been advised to speak to Local Authority contacts to agree local response and coordination. The Police will be leading on social distancing enforcement, primarily focused on the public.

We are working as fast as we can with Home Office and MHCLG to ensure guidance to all bodies is consistent, as this is important for public and business trust.  We are working on updated guidance on enforcement for local authorities, and a template prohibition notice, now that the legislation has been published and we plan to have these to send to you later today.

The Government anticipates that the vast majority of businesses will understand why the restrictions have been brought into place and will follow the requirements. Local authorities are expected to take a reasonable and proportionate approach, encouraging and persuading businesses to comply with the requirements.  However, where businesses do not act responsibly and fail to comply with the Coronavirus Restrictions Regulations, the Regulations provide powers to act.

We appreciate there will be additional questions and appreciate the feedback given already to us, CIEH and CTSI.  Please do continue to contact us.

Regards

Sarah Smith
Deputy Chief Executive
Office for Product Safety and Standards