

Coronavirus Update 25th March

Dear Colleagues,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening outlining further steps to tackle the spread of COVID-19, including a three-week closure of non-essential businesses and premises, we wanted to share some links and guidance from Visit England (National Tourism Board) which you may find useful in these challenging times.

- Guidance on the [closure of all non-essential businesses and premises](#) as part of further social distancing measures. This directive applies to any business providing holiday accommodation including short-term lets such as hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, boarding houses and caravan sites.
- The Government has issued [guidance and advice for those providing hotel and other accommodation in the UK](#). An exception has been made for key workers, who can continue to stay in hotels or similar where required, and for people living in these premises as interim abodes whilst their primary residence is unavailable. Where people live permanently in caravan parks, or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their primary residence is not available, they may also continue to do so.
- Restaurants and catering outlets providing takeaway or delivery services can remain open. Please see the following [link](#) for more information
- Where [hotels, hostels, and B&Bs are providing rooms to support homeless people](#), through arrangements with local authorities and other public bodies, they should remain open.
- Updates to the [Guidance for UK businesses trading internationally](#), including a business support helpline.
- Updated guidance has been released which sets out details of [eligibility and delivery of the Small Business Grants Fund \(SBGF\) and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund \(RHLGF\)](#).
- [Extra protection has been announced for commercial tenants](#) to protect them from eviction if they are unable to pay rent because of coronavirus.
- [New guidance on staying at home and away from others](#) has been released. The guidance covers staying at home, closing non-essential shops and public spaces, stopping public gatherings and delivering these new measures.

COVID-19 tourism industry impact survey

Visit England has reopened its [tracker survey](#) to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on all aspects of the UK tourism industry. The results will provide impact data to brief Ministers, the Government and COBR to help support the industry through these challenging times. Please fill in this [survey](#) and circulate to your members or tourism business contacts. The survey will close at **17.00 on Monday 30 March**.

Visit Kent

Visit Kent has launched a new LinkedIn Forum for all Kent tourism and hospitality businesses to share updates, ask questions and support each other. Anyone can request to join [here](#).

Produced In Kent - #HelpKentBuyLocal campaign

With events and professional gatherings put on hold for the foreseeable future, Produced in Kent's focus will shift fully to online promotion of food and drink businesses, both members and non-members, through their social media channels, their www.HelpKentBuyLocal.co.uk website and #HelpKentBuyLocal e-newsletter.

They will promote all brave initiatives put forward to boost business sales, be it online orders, click & collect, home delivery, food donations or gift vouchers schemes. They will also push out background stories on their members, highlighting ways in which they are coping in these unprecedented circumstances and what positive community initiatives are undertaken to get through this together.

The website is due to go live today, but businesses can already list their services by going to the website and click 'List your business' in the top right-hand corner of the holding page.

[Thanet District Council Business Advice](#)

[Visit Kent Business Advice Hub](#)

[Visit England Business Hub](#)

Remember to follow us on social media and share content @visitthanet. Our content and messages will be focusing on reminding people on what is wonderful about the Isle of Thanet. It will include some did you know facts, midweek mystery and virtual content . Please do share with us any images, videos or 'virtual tour' footage you may have at this time, to enforce our messaging.

As ever, we are here to support you wherever possible and will continue to share the latest official advice and support.