



**The Manufacturing
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Covid-19 advice 2 – 24-03-20

Following last night's news, members have been in contact about what the changing circumstances mean for manufacturers. We have been sent the lines below directly from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy this morning.

- *If it is impossible for you to work from home, you are able to go to work. For example, this will apply to those who do manual labour, such as in the construction and manufacturing industries, as well as those who provide services that cannot be done from home.*
- *You are able to go to work if you absolutely have to, unless you are a vulnerable member of society, in which case we urge you to stay at home as per the guidance.*

The current guidance for employers is accessible [here](#). It is likely to be regularly updated.

The last few days have seen a dramatic set of initiatives which aim to support business. Information about the four main assistances that are in place: the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme; the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme; Time to Pay; and VAT deferral; can all be accessed here <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/>

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Scheme which looks to provide access to working capital for SMEs (through loans, overdrafts, invoice financing and asset finance) came on line yesterday. Although the finance is provided by Government, through the British Business Bank, you need to apply through your regular bank and work out what is best for your business with them. The MTA is in touch with some of the officials who helped shape the scheme (and we have worked with the BBB in the past) and we would welcome feedback from members (on a confidential basis) about how the scheme is working in practice. The full rules of the scheme and the list of accredited lenders are available on the [British Business Bank website](#)

You can access advice on employment issue from the MTA's employment partner Croner by calling their specialists on 0844 561 8133 for support and guidance. The employment service ACAS also have useful information [here](#)

The MTA is a member of the CBI and therefore our members are welcome to access the information that they are putting out. We can recommend the daily webinars they are now holding on coronavirus subjects – you can sign up here <https://www.cbi.org.uk/coronavirus-hub/support-for-business/>