



Following quick and decisive action from the Isle of Man Government, we once again find ourselves faced with a number of mandatory guidelines and restrictions, put in place to keep ourselves and our Island safe.

To ensure that the guidance and advice is easily digestible, we have laid out the key takeaways below, including links to detailed information and support schemes.

Please be rest assured that as with the previous lockdown, we are available and here to support you and your business in any way that we can. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of the team or please feel free to contact me directly at tim.cowsill@gov.im if you have any queries at all.

We look forward seeing you all again soon.

Stay safe. Best wishes, Tim Cowsill

The information in this email is correct at the time of sending. Please refer to gov.im/coronavirus for continued, up-to-date information.

OUR TEAM

The [Business Isle of Man Team](#) will be working and available as usual during the circuit break period, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or require any assistance.

BUSINESS CLOSURES

- To help reinforce social distancing, all non-essential services and community spaces will now be closed (from 00:01 on Thursday 07 January 2021). The full list of closures and exemptions can be [found here](#).
- All businesses named on [closures list](#), must remained closed.
- It is up to the employer to determine what services are essential and ensure that social distancing measures are in place. More information, including assets such as work place posters can be [found here](#).
- Information on what to do if an employee becomes unwell on the premises can be [found here](#).
- Full guidance for businesses, including those defined as 'Essential Services' can be [found here](#).

HOW TO ACCESS SUPPORT SCHEMES

Manx Earnings Replacement Allowance (MERA):

- MERA will again be available to both employed earners and self-employed people who are made redundant, laid off, put on nil pay by their employer
- It will also be available to those who are self-employed but who are prevented from carrying out their work due to the restrictions, providing they [meet the qualifying conditions](#)
- Claims can be made online at gov.im/coronavirus. Anyone who is unable to make their claim online should call 648125 or email mera@gov.im
- MERA will be paid at a standard rate of £200 a week. **Initially, MERA will be paid up to 31 January 2021**
- Unemployed and self-employed people who are not eligible for MERA may be eligible for jobseeker's allowance instead
- Queries regarding MERA can be directed to the allocated MERA telephone line 648125 which is now open today (from Wednesday 6 January) at 9am. Queries can also be sent by email to mera@gov.im

Salary Support Scheme:

- The [Salary Support Scheme](#) is being reopened to all businesses that were able to claim during last year's period of lockdown, 2 March to 19 July 2020
- This is designed to ensure that businesses impacted by the circuit break action can continue to pay their employees
- The method of claiming remains the same, along with the amount of support, which provides financial assistance to any qualifying business of up to £280 for a full-time equivalent employee per week
- The scheme will be open for an initial period beginning on the 4 January and ending on 31 January 2021
- Full details of this scheme, including details on how to claim can be [found here](#)

BORDERS

Borders have reverted to a **Level 5** position in the [borders framework](#) and therefore travel off-Island is strongly discouraged, with increased 'controlled return of residents' measures, there is currently no guarantee as to when residents will be able to return.

Entry is permitted **only** for Key Workers required for the preservation of life, public safety and critical national infrastructure.

Those entering will be required to complete a Landing Form for contact tracing.

Anyone returning to the Island from 00.01am on Thursday 7th January 2021 will be required to take three tests: on day 1, day 6/7 and on day 13. If you choose not to take the tests, then an isolation period of 21 days will be mandatory.

SCHOOLS & NURSERIES

As of **Thursday 7 January**, schools will close and revert back to the hub model, available to children of **essential workers only**.

Nurseries will also be closed to all apart from children of essential workers.

FACE COVERINGS

The wearing of face coverings is strongly advised in public and compulsory on public transport, however, be aware that individual shops may make the wearing of masks mandatory in their shops.

STAY AT HOME

For more information please visit
gov.im/covid19