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Covid-19 Member Update

Wednesday 13 May

Summary

The Chancellor yesterday (12 May) announced the extension of his Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme until the end of October 2020. This was a welcome announcement for millions of workers across the UK who see no end in sight to the hardships induced by the Covid-19 crisis. Mr Sunak will be publishing further details on the practicalities of this extension by the end of the month.

The Chancellor's announcement will no doubt be a central topic of discussion during today's Prime Minister question time. The Labour party has already pressured the Government to clarify the terms of the scheme's extension, and flagged the "very real risk" of mass redundancies if businesses are expected to share the cost with the state.

Below, please find a summary of yesterday's major announcements and events, as well as the steps ukactive is taking to support the physical activity sector.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak announces extension of Job Retention Scheme until October

- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which currently supports 7.5 million workers across the UK, has been extended until the end of October 2020.
- There will be no changes to the system until the end of July 2020. Until then, the Government will continue to pay 80% of furloughed workers' wages up to £2,500 a month.
- From August 2020 onwards, the scheme will continue for all sectors and regions, but with greater flexibility to allow firms to bring staff back to work as the lockdown eases and the economy reopens. Employers will also be asked to share with the Government the cost of paying salaries.
- A detailed plan outlining how this new version of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme could work will be published by HM Treasury by 31 May.

ukactive response to the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

ukactive CEO Huw Edwards a statement in response to the Chancellor's announcement to extend the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme yesterday (12 May). He said: "ukactive



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welcomes with caution the announcement from the Chancellor that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will be extended until the end of October, as well as the introduction of partial furlough for businesses.”

“However, there remain serious concerns that businesses will be expected to contribute to the salary of furloughed staff from August, even if facilities are required to remain closed.”

Read the full statement [here](#).

CIMSPA: Allowing limited personal training will bring relief to the fitness sector

Tara Dillon, CEO of The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) welcomed news that, from today (13 May), outdoor personal training will be allowed on a one-to-one basis, provided that social distancing guidelines are observed.

Find the full statement [here](#).

Sport England Community Emergency Fund boosted by £15 million

Sport England announced that its Community Emergency Fund is being topped up by an additional £15 million of National Lottery money to meet the demand from organisations providing community sport and physical activity.

The initial £20m fund, also supported by The National Lottery, was launched at the end of March as a rapid response to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the ensuing social distancing guidelines and the stay at home order, and their impact on sport and exercise.

Find out more [here](#).

Expected announcements

Boris Johnson will face opposition leader Sir Keir Starmer in the House of Commons during today’s Prime Minister question time. Expect to see more scrutiny of the Government’s latest announcements, and perhaps an early analysis of the UK’s first day under the new lockdown rules. All eyes will be on public transport this morning to gage whether making people go back to work while maintaining social distancing is indeed possible.

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick will also be making a statement in the Commons this afternoon.

ukactive engagement with Government



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ukactive is in constant dialogue with multiple government departments on additional support available for our members. This includes continued engagement with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and discussions with the Department for Education on continued support for children's activity providers. Discussions with Treasury over its latest announcements continue.

All insights gained from this engagement will be fed back to members through the daily briefing. Please contact a member of the ukactive team if you have any specific questions: publicaffairs@ukactive.org.uk.

You can find all the latest information on what Covid-19 means for the sector, as well as guidance and support for your organisation in our ukactive [Covid-19 hub](#).