

## Two-week Welsh Government Lockdown Briefing – 20 October 2020

### Introduction

The Welsh Government is introducing a two week ‘firebreak’ lockdown which will begin on 6pm Friday 23 October and run until the start of Monday 9 November 2020.

### Construction Sites Open

The Welsh Government has explicitly stated that during this time construction and manufacturing can continue, so long as workplaces are COVID-secure. Members are encouraged to view and follow the NFB’s Site Operating Procedures available [here](#).

### Retrofit, Maintenance and Improvement (working in people’s homes)

While the Welsh Government announced at first that RMI works would be restricted, it has now changed the advice to say that RMI can start and continue so long as neither the workers nor the householders have any symptoms (however mild) or are self-isolating.

Members undertaking RMI works in people’s homes should do so in a COVID-secure way.

- Welsh Government Guidance on Reasonable Measures to Minimise Exposure to COVID-19 in Workplaces Open to the Public - [here](#)
- Welsh Government Guidance on Working in People’s Homes - [here](#)
- NFB Site Operating Procedures – [here](#)
- Safe Work, Work Safe Campaign - [here](#)

### Emergency Works in Self-Isolating Households

It may be necessary to undertake emergency works in households where a person or persons are self-isolating, such as to repair a fault that poses a direct risk to the householders’ safety, e.g. emergency plumbing or adaptations to allow the home to continue to be habitable.

In this instance, additional precautions should be taken to keep workers and householders completely separate from each other. Public Health Wales can provide advice to tradespeople and households. **But no work should be carried out by a tradesperson who has coronavirus symptoms, however mild.**

### Merchants, Suppliers and Refuse and Recycling Sites

It is not currently clear whether the Welsh Government will permit merchants and suppliers to remain open, as current advice is that all ‘non-essential retail’ will have to close. The NFB will update this document once a list of businesses required to close is published. The Welsh Government has also announced that refuse and recycling sites will also be closed during the lockdown period.

### Accommodation

All accommodation in Wales is to close except for emergencies and for key workers, which construction workers are not deemed to be.

### **Businesses based in England, working in Wales and vice versa**

People and businesses operating in construction based in England but working in Wales may continue to do so, and vice versa. Restrictions on travel do not apply for construction work purposes. The lockdown rules apply to anyone who is in Wales, whether resident or travelling there. People living in Wales can also travel to England for construction work purposes.

Anyone who has symptoms or who has been contacted by a responsible authority and told to self-isolate should not attend their workplace but remain in self-isolation for the duration of the period that they have been instructed to do so.

### **House moves**

Home viewings will not be permitted but house moves and associated activities such as removals processes, property preparation, handover of keys, surveys and valuations can also take place in line with guidance on working in other people's homes.

### **Financial Support**

Those businesses affected can access a range of funding support including a £1,000 payment for every business covered by small business rates relief and additional discretionary grants and support for smaller businesses, which are struggling.

Welsh Government advice on financial support for businesses – [here](#)

### **Contact**

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