

# Reopening Business Getting Ireland Back to Work—Safely



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
National  
Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our communities and our businesses, but now – thanks to your patience and sacrifice – we're looking ahead to a careful, phased re-opening of our country. National and local government, state agencies and representatives of employers and employees have worked together so that businesses can resume, safely and effectively.

There are four pathways to help get your business back on its feet:

## 1 Phased Return to Business

There is a guidance roadmap in place for gradual business reopening – in five phases – beginning on 18th May, with different starting dates for different business sectors and always subject to change based on health advice at the time.

- 1 Phased return of outdoor workers, more retail, construction and manufacturing.
- 2 Limited return to onsite working subject to compliance capability.
- 3 Return to low- interaction work.
- 4 Return to work, where employees cannot remote work.
- 5 Phased return to work across all sectors.

*For all phases, remote working continues for all that can do so.*

## 2 Staying Safe, Staying Healthy

Employers and Employees – make yourselves aware of the full advice contained in Return to Work, the National Return to Work Safety Protocol – available at Gov.ie

**As an Employer there are things you must consider, for example:**

- Keep your workplace safe and clean
- Provide training on new work practices and hygiene
- Make sure your employees know how to reduce the risk of infection
- Make sure your customers are safe

**As an Employee there are things you also must consider, for example:**

- Participate in training on new work practices and hygiene
- Make yourself aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Monitor your own wellbeing
- Report to managers if any symptoms develop at work.

## 3 Financial Supports

There is a wide range of financial supports available through your Local Enterprise Office, Enterprise Ireland, Microfinance Ireland and other agencies to help with cash flow, payroll, working capital and long-term investment – for example:

- COVID-19 Trading Online Grants up to €5,000
- Business Continuity Vouchers
- Restart grants up to €10,000
- Three-month commercial rates waiver
- 'Warehousing' of tax liabilities
- Wage Subsidy Scheme
- Lean Business Continuity grants
- COVID-19 low-cost Business Loans
- Covid-19 Online Retail Scheme grants
- SBCI Working Capital Loans through the banking sector.

## 4 Advice & Guidance

If your business model needs to change the national network of 31 Local Enterprise Offices and other relevant state agencies can help through:

**Mentoring** to help businesses identify immediate challenges and solutions. Mentors are business experts working alongside business owners and managers providing practical, useful advice and guidance.

**Online Training** to develop the skills to steer your business through this challenging time.



**Remember** – the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to use proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, and practice social distancing.

Tailored business supports for individual sectors are available from all of Ireland's enterprise agencies.



Please stay the course—help make the return to work safe and effective—and please pay close attention to the health guidelines. For more information go to [gov.ie/business](https://gov.ie/business)



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland