



If you are in the **food industry** you may be interested in 2 e-courses launched by Hopwood Hall College, as a response to the current pandemic (detailed below). These are free of charge for food businesses. If you are interested please complete the [attached enrollment form](#) and return to vle@hopwood.ac.uk along with the course you would like to complete. They are also offering free Level 2 City & Guilds Accredited Food Safety & Hygiene for Catering course.

Course 1 – **Setting Up Your Business for Food Delivery**

Effective methods when planning for change

How to ensure Social distancing for your premises, staff and during deliveries.

Key Food hygiene and food allergen awareness training.

Food delivery guidance

Who is it for?

Restaurant owners and managers

Café owners and managers

Bakery owners

Food shop workers

Farm shop owners

Course 2 - **Home Deliveries for Food Businesses**

How to ensure team wellbeing and safety whilst working.

How to ensure social distancing whilst delivering food.

Essential food hygiene knowledge and techniques.

Essential food allergy awareness training.

How to implement social responsibility procedures.

Food business owners

Delivery drivers

Chefs

Food business managers

Café owners

Who is it for?

The Council is continuing to make **grant payments** to businesses and so far in excess of £300,000 has been paid to those eligible businesses. The priority is businesses in multi-occupancy buildings and if you, or your clients, think they may be eligible, have a look at :

<http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus/Pages/business-top-up-grant-scheme.aspx>

The deadline for applications is 31st May 2020.

Have you paid out SSP during the current crisis? HMRC have launched a new online service for small and medium-sized employers to **recover Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)** payments they have made to their employees.

For more information please see: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-your-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=5c502149-412b-490a-9743-5d0c8f308f42&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Over the last few months we have been working with the **NPL in Hudders field**. As a government organisation they are looking to help businesses at this time, particularly manufacturing SMEs. They want to hear from industry about their current (and future) situation to establish how NPL might be able to help them (either directly or linking them to local funding etc.). They want to hear their problems & challenges, lessons learned, best practices, suggestions for online event topics, anything you can share!

They have launched a survey which they are targeting at their members, but have asked if any Rochdale businesses would mind completing it. The link is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8NW8YF9>

The Council's Public Protection Team have pulled together a summary document to help businesses ensure their **workforce are safe and operating** within Government guidance following the relaxation of the lockdown measures. Many businesses have continued to operate throughout the last few weeks and have implemented a range of measures already, but we know some are only just starting to return. The guide is there to help you and maybe give you some ideas of what you could do within the workplace. You may also want to look at:

<https://www.cipd.co.uk/news-views/coronavirus/faqs/returning-to-workplace>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

During the last few weeks many businesses have risen to the challenge and changed their operation to help support the others in this pandemic. This includes businesses producing sanitiser, making or sourcing face masks, production of clear protective screens and floor markings (I am sure there are many more!)

The RDA would like to try and support businesses and share this information via Business Matters. This will be a one-off edition which we want to send out next week.

SO – if you produce equipment that other Rochdale businesses may need as part of their new working practices/regimes, then please let me know. I need a couple of lines about the product, volumes and delivery times. I don't want publicity brochures! I need a website (if there is one) and contact details for those who want more information. It will be fairly basic, but we want to help you help each other – by sourcing goods more locally and supporting the local economy.

You may have a service/capacity within your business that you are able to share, due to the pandemic – please share this too and I will include it.

Deadline is Tuesday 2nd June.

Regards,

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