

# COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) RESPONSE PLAN

IDA Ireland supports for business



# INTRODUCTION



**This is an extremely difficult time for business; for Irish companies, and for multinationals with operations in Ireland. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widescale disruption, affecting global growth, trade and FDI flows. As an open economy, Ireland will not escape this impact. IDA Ireland remains open for business across the globe – albeit ‘virtually’ – to protect our employees and clients, and to engage with investors.**

Businesses have a key role to play in minimising transmission of the virus and its impact on society. The vast majority of FDI companies remain operational; many have implemented business continuity plans and remote working policies where feasible. We will support them to remain operational where possible, in line with public health advice.

## Our focus includes

- 1.** **Engaging** with our 1500+ existing client companies at this time to support them in whatever way we can. Our Account Executives are reaching out to client companies regularly.
- 2.** **Working** with colleagues across the Government system in planning for the coming months to ensure companies can continue operating in line with public health guidelines and in many cases, provide critical products and services.
- 3.** **Supporting** the Irish Health Service Executive in all of their efforts, but particularly in securing the necessary supplies of medical equipment that our health system and citizens need.

# INTRODUCTION



## **WHAT IF MY BUSINESS NEEDS TO STAY OPEN?**

Remote working is not possible in all cases. Many companies, particularly in manufacturing, need employees to continue working on site. Employers should refer to the Government guidance on essential services where employees must travel to work. The list of essential services is available at [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)

In these cases, employers and employees should follow all public health advice and the guidance from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. Employers should also amplify this advice to their communities. Educating employees on COVID-19 symptoms and prevention is crucial to slowing the spread of the virus.

## **WHAT IF MY BUSINESS IS AFFECTED BY CHANGES IN DEMAND?**

As the health impact of the virus is felt here and elsewhere, its effect on global supply chains is likely to escalate.

Ireland is home to significant medtech and pharmaceutical operations. Sectors like these will need to ramp-up production of important products and provide essential services that are required to address the pandemic we face.

Vital sectors including financial services, data centres, microelectronics and engineering are also impacted and need to maintain operations.

In other sectors where demand has decreased significantly, some companies have needed to scale back activities, or close temporarily.

Whatever circumstances they may be facing, our client companies can avail of supports to help them in this unprecedented situation. We are continuing to work with all stakeholders and in this document we outline the range of supports available for businesses. These form part of measures the Government has already announced, which include welcome supports to assist employees.

# COVID 19 BUSINESS CONTINUITY SUPPORTS FOR IDA IRELAND CLIENT COMPANIES

The Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation and its agencies, working with Ireland's service providers, has developed consultancy and training supports to help companies respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. These resources have been introduced to support the implementation of the recently announced NSAI Guidelines. [www.nsai.ie](http://www.nsai.ie)

In addition to the usual supports that IDA Ireland provides to businesses, a new support for business continuity is now available. It focuses on two specific areas:

**a) Management team consultancy**

This will be a one-to-one consultancy or a one-to-team consultancy with an experienced provider to talk through issues related to COVID-19 or to support the development of the site's contingency planning, or business continuity planning.

**b) Training for staff**

Where clients need to continue to communicate and engage with their employees and provide guidance and training to them in any aspect associated with COVID-19. This can also be achieved through online webinars and discussion guided by a trained facilitator.

## IS MY COMPANY ELIGIBLE?

These supports are open to all IDA Ireland client companies needing additional help and guidance to manage their operations during this pandemic, particularly those without a dedicated business continuity team.

## WHAT DO THE SUPPORTS COVER?

You can get help to manage operations through the crisis period for:

**Defence** - Protection against the spread of the virus

**Exposure** - Management and reduction of detected on-site cases

**Recovery** - Recovery of processes and business functions after detection





Some of the areas that the **consultancy and training** can cover are:

- Crisis management and building rapid deployment capability
- Hygiene systems and deployment of same
- Contact tracing and management
- People management through a crisis – communicating/handling issues
- Coaching/mentor support for leaders and staff on mitigation and reduction actions
- Virtual risk assessments on sites and reducing risks of contamination
- Preparing for external assessment e.g. by HSE/Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
- Rapid response to emergency situations e.g. rapidly disinfecting at pace
- Dealing with challenging logistics
- Risk assessments for business continuity
- Managing and supporting a potentially compromised sub-supply network
- Developing alternative uses for your site in the event of reduced demand for current products
- Managing sub-contractors and suppliers
- Developing rapid understanding of post-crisis market requirements
- Sourcing alternative distribution channels and logistics
- Preparing for ramp-up post crisis

This is not an exhaustive list. Companies should contact their IDA Ireland Account Executives to find the right support depending on specific company needs.

## **WHO DELIVERS THESE SUPPORTS?**

To help you, we have sourced a range of consultants with experience of international epidemics and with national experience of past crises affecting sectors in Ireland.

**Access the list of qualified consultants here -**

<https://www.leanbusinessireland.ie/businesscontinuityserviceproviderdirectory/>

## **HOW TO ACCESS THE BUSINESS CONTINUITY SUPPORT**

Either through your IDA Ireland Account Executive or by [applying online here](#)

### ***Funding***

€2,500 of funding excluding VAT, is available for 2.75 days of consultancy or training.

### ***How To Apply***

1. Your IDA Account Executive will guide you to the services provider database from which you will choose a consultant.
2. Complete a short online application form.
3. Eligible companies will receive approval from IDA Ireland.

# GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS FOR BUSINESS

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation will provide a joint First Responder support service through the Intreo Offices. In each region, IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland are providing tailored supports for firms impacted by COVID-19, with the objective of avoiding mass lay-offs and assisting client companies to work through short-term disruptions.

- The Government's [COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme](#), operated by Revenue, enables employees, whose employers are affected by the pandemic, to receive significant supports directly from their employer through the payroll system. The scheme is expected to last 12 weeks from 26 March 2020
- The Revenue Commissioners will engage with any viable business experiencing temporary cashflow difficulties, including those arising from the COVID-19 outbreak. Revenue has published specific [COVID-19 information and advice for taxpayers](#)
- Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can avail of the Government's agreed [commercial rates deferral](#)
- The Companies Registration Office has introduced [changes to annual filing obligations for companies](#)
- The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation's [contingency plan](#) ensures the Employment Permits system will continue to operate
- The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) has published a [Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide](#), outlining preventative measures businesses can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- The [SBCI Covid-19 Working Capital Scheme](#) makes loans available to viable micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and small midcap enterprises that meet the eligibility criteria. The loans will be available through AIB, Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank and can be used for: future working capital requirements; and to fund innovation, change or adaptation of the business to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Eligibility applications for the COVID-19 Working Capital Scheme are now being accepted through the SBCI website at [sbci.gov.ie](https://sbci.gov.ie)
- The banking sector has adopted a coordinated approach to support customers whose income has been impacted by COVID-19, for more information please see [Department of Finance guidance](#).

# GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS FOR EMPLOYEES

- If you have lost your job due to COVID-19 you can apply for the [COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment](#). You can apply for this whether you are an employee or if you are self-employed
- If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are medically certified to self-isolate as a result of COVID-19, you can apply for [Illness Benefit for COVID-19 absences](#) which is higher than the standard rate. You can apply for this whether you are an employee or if you are self-employed
- Individuals who are subject to reduced hours or days worked can avail of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection's [Short Time Work Support](#) applying online or through their [local Intreo Office](#)
- The Department of Health has prepared [COVID-19 guidance for supply chain workers](#)
- Individuals engaged in e-working or remote working may be eligible for relief towards home expenses incurred. For more information please see [Revenue guidance](#) on this issue
- eCollege is a SOLAS-funded online training facility that provides a range of high quality interactive online learning courses, available any time online, for those who wish to learn at their own pace. eCollege courses are temporarily being made available free of charge as an additional support to those impacted by COVID-19 containment measures. Please see [www.ecollege.ie](http://www.ecollege.ie) for further information on available courses



# COVID-19 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SUPPORTS

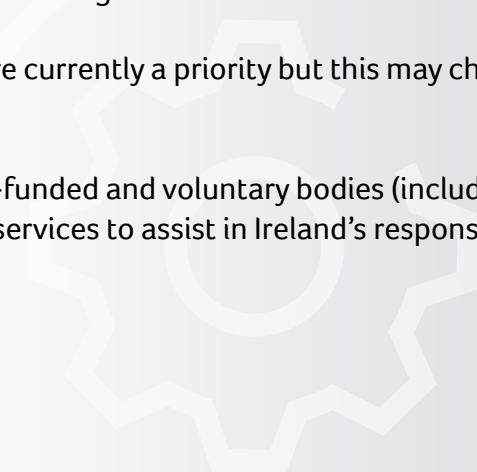
- IDA, Science Foundation Ireland and Enterprise Ireland are interested in delivering research and innovation activities that will have a near-term positive impact on the current crisis, including the development of innovative solutions based on new or alternative approaches and methodologies to address immediate national needs.
- The **Rapid Response Research and Innovation programme** aims to help mitigate and manage the COVID-19 pandemic by unlocking the potential of Irish-based researchers and innovators comprising two complementary strands:
  - 1) Medical countermeasures, health service readiness, and social and policy countermeasures to COVID-19. This is led by the Health Research Board (HRB) and the Irish Research Council (IRC).
  - 2) An agile and adaptive initiative to combine the capabilities of industry and academia in developing innovative solutions that can have a rapid demonstrable impact on the COVID-19 crisis in Ireland. Applications that propose the adaptation, blending or re-purposing of existing products, processes, technologies and infrastructures are strongly encouraged. Further details of the call can be found [here](#).
- The full range of IDA Ireland grant supports will be available to companies – visit [www.idaireland.com](http://www.idaireland.com) for more information

## HOW BUSINESS CAN HELP WITH SUPPLIES AND SERVICES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

Since COVID-19 arrived in Ireland, organisations have been contacting government bodies to offer to supply or donate goods and services. A central database of these offers has been created on behalf of the whole of the public service, including the HSE.

Goods and services required by the health services are currently a priority but this may change as the situation develops.

This form can be used by business as well as publicly-funded and voluntary bodies (including educational institutions), who wish to offer goods or services to assist in Ireland's response to COVID-19. [gov.ie/covidsupplies](http://gov.ie/covidsupplies)





# IDA Ireland Open for Business



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