

Practical steps you can take to help your business, and how we can help

We're committed to supporting our customers who may be impacted by COVID-19.

We've collated a list of practical considerations and potential solutions that may help your business.

If your business has been impacted by Coronavirus, our teams are here to support you.

If you need our help:

- Talk to your Relationship Manager
- Call us on **0345 711 4477**



Need help keeping track of what's happening?

See the latest guidance:

UK Government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

WHO

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

1.

Look after yourself and your people



Follow Public Health England (PHE) recommended precaution to help prevent the spread of infection.

Consider increasing the amount of cleaning on surfaces such as desks, keyboards, door handles with an anti-bacterial solution and having hand sanitiser gel readily available for your staff and customers to use.

Advise employees and contractors to consult **national travel advice** before going on business trips.

Employees to self-isolate, even if asymptomatic, when returning from **Category 1 country / areas**.

Certifying absence from work: medical evidence is not required for the first 7 days of sickness (source: **Gov.uk**). After 7 days, it is for the employer to determine what evidence they require.

Statutory sick pay will be made available from day one when self isolating, instead of day four.

How we can help ...

Our **NatWest Mentor**¹ service is your expert in employment law & HR, health & safety and environmental management. We may be able to provide you with the consultancy and advice needed to help your business.

¹ Please be aware that Mentor services incur a cost.

2.

Business continuity plan (BCP)



Identify essential operations and human resources plan if employee absence is a threat. Gather confirmation of the chain of command and back-ups for critical roles.

Review if IT infrastructure is able to support an increase in remote work and additional technology requirements, such as video or digital telephonic software.

Create an internal communications plan to ensure that the BCP updates and changes can be communicated in real-time.

Have a disaster recovery plan in place with framework to ensure continuity of operations if primary physical space is unavailable.

Assess the risk level of any vendors or other parties that your business depends on and gather confirmation from critical vendors that they have a robust BCP and are able to deploy as needed.

Identify if you may have any potential constraint on working capital, funding or future payment.

How we can help ...

If you have any concern about funding or payment, please contact us to discuss. We may be able to offer support.

3. Cash flow and working capital



Businesses can experience delays and disruption to their supply chain, as stock availability may drop and supply lead times lengthen. The knock on impact could include raw material, stock, component price increases, and potentially then need to seek alternative sources.

New suppliers unfamiliar with their buyers may require advance payment, or bank guarantees.

How we can help ...

NatWest has pledged £5bn of working capital support for SMEs during the coronavirus outbreak.

We have a range of solutions that could help you manage your trading risks and also provide tailored funding to ensure your supply chain remains healthy – keeping supply, demand and the flow of trade consistent during volatile times.

For businesses experiencing a significant reduction in cash flow and income, we may be able to offer loan repayment holidays and/or temporary emergency loans with no fees.

Funding

Keeping cashflow moving is essential and our range of **Invoice financing** solutions can help you to realise cash from unpaid invoices. This includes our **Rapid Cash²** solution.

Trade Loans can provide cash earlier in your contract cycle – to help pay your suppliers. Trade Loans do not have to be repaid until your customer pays you – affording you the breathing space you need.

In addition **Asset Finance** could help future proof your business by providing tailored funding so your business can invest or release working capital for greater automation or efficiency.

Risk Management

When markets become volatile, ensuring that you get paid (or if you are the buyer – you receive what you ordered on time), becomes even more important. We have a range of **Trade Finance Instruments** to help.

From **Letters of Credit** – helping to minimise the risk of non-payment or late payment; to **Bonds and Guarantees** which can be tailored to any contract and ensure promises are kept between buyers and sellers across international borders and when undertaking UK to UK trade.

Visit our International **Trade Hub** or speak to your Relationship Manager to find out more.

² To be eligible for Rapid Cash businesses need to have been trading for a minimum of six months and have an annual turnover of at least £100k. Businesses need to be Limited Companies or Limited Liability Partnerships in the UK. With NatWest Rapid Cash you can borrow against your unpaid invoices and get a flexible line of credit from £25k to £500k. We don't charge any setup or monthly fees for limits up to £300k, for limits above £300k an arrangement fee will apply.

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4. Consider reducing exposure to exchange-rate fluctuations and simplify international payments



Delays in shipments can cause uncertainty over the timing of foreign currency payments, with businesses facing diminishing confidence forecasting of revenue and costs.

Short term supply chain disruptions can also result in changes to foreign currency exposure.

How we can help ...

We can help you with your potential foreign currency needs giving you access to majority of the most commonly traded currencies in international markets.

Where you are experiencing supply chain disruption we can work with you to realign payments with revised cash flow, potentially incorporating flexibility to manage further timing or currency uncertainty.

International Cash Management and International Payments. We can also potentially help you establish new banking relationships through our Partner Bank network, operating in 36 countries across EMEA, APAC and the Americas, to help simplify your payments.

How we can help with additional funding

We have extended our existing Growth Funding package to support businesses who have been impacted by Covid-19 either directly or through supply chain problems. Talk to us if you need additional support.



For more information please contact your Relationship Manager

UK: 0345 711 4477 (24 hours)

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Relay UK/Next Generation

Text Service (NGTS): 18001 03457 11 44 77

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