

# Welcome to our Coronavirus Update

From all the news reports and bulletins, I think it's fair to assume that we are seeing the positive results of the Government's lock down strategy.

I know this will have proved to be a challenging period, not only for business, but also for all of our people too. Whilst staying at home, eating your weight in chocolate and bingeing on your favourite TV series may sound fantastic, I think we would all prefer to return to some kind of normality.

I take my hat off to everyone who respects the main rules of the lockdown, especially those who are living on their own – I know that social isolation is difficult and can be mentally stressful, particularly when there's no end in sight. But let's hope the worst is behind us and that we will soon be able to move about more freely and meet with family and friends "for real" rather than virtually via technology.

In this communication and on the hub, as well as beefing up our content on mental resilience and well-being, we have started to look forward and are now providing guidance for those companies and people beginning to emerge from lockdown. You will see more of this from AXA here, on the hub and on social media – as we release content we hope you and your clients find useful.

We are committed to publishing regular coronavirus updates and we urge you to share relevant content with your clients.

As always, best of health to you and your families.

Jon







# **Table of Contents**

1	Underwriting
1.a	Changes to Liability declarations for furloughed workers
1.b	Brightmile app for essential services fleets
1.c	Your questions answered
2	Business Support8
2.a	rradar COVID-19 portal
2.b	What's new this week on the rradar COVID-19 portal9
2.c	Spotlight Articles
2.d	Watch 'on demand': Part 2. Workplace disruption - managing employment issues 12
2.e	Working Well Toolkit
2.f	Back to Business
3	Wellbeing & Resilience
3.a	Wellbeing: Our team shares their working from home tips
3.b	Resilience: How to Vlog – a guide from Ignition



# 1. Underwriting

In this section we outline changes to liability declarations for furloughed workers and provide details of the Brightmile safe driving app, which we're offering to fleets providing essential services. We also answer the latest questions received into our Covid-19 mailbox.

## 1.a Changes to Liability declarations for furloughed workers

Important news affecting Wages and Turnover Rated Employers, Public and Products Liability Policies with AXA Insurance

Over recent weeks AXA Commercial Lines have introduced several changes to help our Property and Motor Fleet clients whose businesses have been impacted by Covid-19. We have also been considering how best we can similarly assist our EL & PL clients who have been affected by actions that limit their normal trading.

One specific area we have been looking at is dealing with "Furlough" payments to employees. Though these are still "Wage" payments from the employer, they can be recovered from the Government provided strict conditions are complied with around work undertaken. AXA therefore feel it would be unfair on our customers, and would undermine the principle of these payments, if we were to charge premiums based on these payments.

We are therefore, with immediate effect, introducing the following changes to Wages and Turnover Rated EL, PL and Products Liability policies (and relevant sections of Combined Policies).

## Furlough Payments - EL and PL Policies - Wages Estimates and Declarations

For renewals of EL and PL policies / Combined policy sections that are based on an estimate of Wages, we will be asking our brokers and clients to supply us with estimated Wage-rolls that include a full breakdown of the expected or actual Furlough payments the customer is recovering from the Government. AXA will then base the deposit premium, and in due course any declaration adjustment, on the "Net Wages" after deducting any Furlough payments recovered.

This change will apply to all cases renewed whilst the Furlough scheme is still in operation and will also be retrospectively applied to Declaration Adjustments for existing policies currently in force, to ensure our customers do not pay premiums based on Furlough payments that have been funded by the Government.



#### **Declaration Adjustment Clauses & Maximum Declaration Adjustments**

Most AXA Employers, Public and Products Liability policies that are based on Estimates of Wages or Turnover include a limit on the maximum return premium that can be allowed of 10%. Some older policies allow a maximum of up to 25%, whilst a few policies (mainly Motor Trade plus some lower premium combined cases) are not adjustable at all.

To ensure that all our customers can benefit from the above concessions

- With immediate effect all Wages and Turnover Based EL, PL and Products Policies will be issued on an adjustable basis allowing a refund of up to 25% on declaration (including Motor Trade).
- We will extend the same concession retrospectively to all current live Wages and Turnover Rated EL, PL and Products policies including treating as "Adjustable" any policies that are not currently subject to a Declaration Clause (including Motor Trade policies).

Please note – These changes apply at New Business, Renewal and for Declarations. We are sorry but we are unable to renegotiate estimates mid-term – if customers who pay by instalments are having difficulty with making current payments please see our advice on assistance with Payment Holidays.

If you have any questions, please contact your local AXA Branch – and more importantly please talk to your normal AXA Underwriters to make sure we can obtain the more detailed information that will be needed to allow your customers to benefit from this assistance.







Coronavirus **Update** Advice and resources for brokers

## 1.b Brightmile app for essential services fleets

AXA and Brightmile offer safe driving app for fleets providing essential services

- AXA-insured fleets can access the Brightmile app for free for three months
- The app monitors vehicle speeds, journey durations and phone distractions
- Set up and managed remotely, the risk management solution is compatible with social distancing

The UK government ordered movement restrictions on 23rd March, but key workers can still commute and vehicles providing essential services are still allowed on the roads. These services include food delivery, medicine distribution, charity work, gas, electricity and water provision, and other crucial activities.

To support those services, AXA and Brightmile are launching a risk management proposition whereby AXA-insured fleets can access the Brightmile app for free for three months.

The smartphone solution can be deployed and managed totally remotely, without any physical contact, and focuses on certain key areas of risk exposure which persist despite the crisis. Even though road traffic has reduced, police forces have seen a number of drivers driving at very high speeds and dangerously.

What is more, the government has temporarily relaxed restrictions on delivery drivers' hours to help supermarkets restack their shelves with food, cleaning products and personal care items. This measure, taken with the understanding that driver welfare and safety must not be compromised, reinforces the need to prevent driver fatigue and complacency.

The Brightmile app keeps track of journey durations, vehicle speeds, phone interactions and other risk factors. With rewards for safe driving, it encourages drivers to improve their behind-the-wheel behaviour. On the company side, a web portal is available for fleet managers and business owners managing their company vehicles, where they can view fleet trends and insights, and encourage safer driving.

The Brightmile offer is at the centre of a wellbeing programme which AXA is rolling out to support fleet drivers' physical and mental health. That holistic programme comprises:

- 1. The app for drivers and web portal for fleet managers and business owners
- 2. Training on how to use telematics data
- 3. A presentation on fleet managers' corporate responsibility
- **4.** An online resource library containing relevant handbooks and forms



"The coronavirus lockdown hasn't removed all road dangers. In these trying times, drivers who are delivering essential services need to keep safe. We want to show them we value their contribution to society and we want to help them stay safe. We hope this app and the associated services will make a difference to their wellbeing."

#### Doug Jenkins, Motor Technical Risk Manager, AXA Insurance

Brightmile is a start-up that has been incubated by Kamet, AXA's insurtech studio. The app it has developed can be downloaded onto a smartphone and doesn't require any additional hardware, making it simpler and more cost-effective than traditional black box or on-board diagnostics (OBD) telematics.

"Since the Brightmile app is easy to install and operate, drivers can continue to observe social distancing and fleet managers can use the web portal as part of their remote working arrangements. The whole set up functions within today's safety requirements and we trust it will be a helpful tool for key workers."

#### Dominic Saunders, CEO, Brightmile

The Brightmile offer is available to new and existing fleet customers. Brokers with qualifying risks are invited to contact their usual AXA Commercial account manager to access the offer.





## 1.c Your questions answered

Here are the latest questions received into our **covid19@axa-insurance.co.uk** mailbox and our responses to them. You'll find more of your questions, and our answers to them, on the **Coronavirus Hub**.

There have been media reports that the FCA is making the ABI tell insurers to pay out for Covid-19 to business's closed due to the lockdown – is this true?

Though the vast majority of UK Commercial Property and Business Interruption policies do not offer cover for losses arising out Covid-19, the FCA, ABI (and the Government) have been involved in discussions to ensure that for those policies that do offer any form of cover, insurers are able to pay these as quickly as is possible and / or to offer interim payments if cover is in force but the amount payable cannot yet be determined. The discussions however do not extend to insurers being asked to meet any claims where cover was not in force.

# If a policy provides cover for 'plague', does this include Coronavirus / Covid-19?

"Some wordings – notably the Business Combined – set out a list of specific diseases which can trigger cover. Coronavirus / Covid-19 is highly unlikely to be encompassed by any entry on the list. In particular, "plague" is a reference to a specific infectious disease caused by the bacterium Yersinia pestis; this term does not describe Coronavirus / Covid-19, which is a viral illness."

A groundworker client with an AXA Contractors policy has advised they are returning to work to do a contract for the local council. Their Health & Safety people have asked if our client would have any liability against them if one of their workers caught Covid-19 while working for them?

Where contractors are continuing to work on contracts, or entering into new contracts, their normal 'duty of care' exists to protect Employees and Third Parties against risks or injury or disease. To this end we would recommend employers follow the advice from the HSE and other Government sources on-line. If they have any specific concerns they can access, through our branches, AXA's Business Resilience Consultants who

are still offering risk management advice, support and surveys remotely via the phone and internet.

AXA Contractors policies would normally offer full Employers and Public Liability of the client in relation to Covid-19, with the possible exception of specific trades such as specialist cleaning where a Disease or Efficacy exclusion would have been brought to your attention. If any of your clients are undertaking any contracts that are very high risk (such as maintenance work within Covid-19 wards in hospitals or similar) we would recommend that you contact us in advance for advice.

If a property becomes vacant mid-term between tenants, is there an extension to the number of days a property is considered empty and is there any relaxation to the unoccupied conditions?

We have extended the normal notification period for empty premises to 60 days and offer full cover for this period for premises that are temporarily closed due to Furloughing of Staff or Working from home following Covid-19. If premises were already empty, or if the premises become permanently unoccupied, or are between tenancies, then the normal Unoccupancy conditions under the policy apply so we would recommend the customer contacts us as a matter of urgency.

Could I clarify that the unoccupancy extension of 60 days commenced from the 27th March 2020 when the government informed the nation of the restriction? If a property became empty before the lock down, would the extension apply?

The extension of the Unoccupancy clause applies to premises that are temporarily closed due to Furloughing of Staff or Working from home following Covid-19. If premises were already empty, or if the premises become permanently unoccupied the normal Unoccupancy conditions under the policy apply so we would recommend the customer contacts us as a matter of urgency.



# 2. Business Support

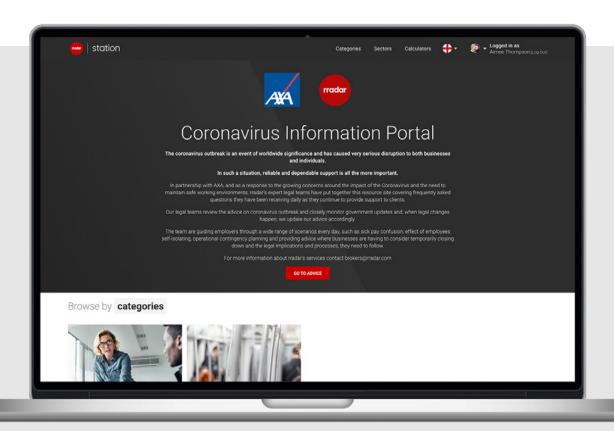
In association with rradar we have four more PDF spotlight articles for use with your customers – recapping ICO data regulations, rights of employees to access PPE, accessing SME bounce back loans and also dealing with employment tribunals during furlough.

Via the rradar portal broker teams can also access an expanding range of bite size 'on demand' webinars, discussing the effects of the outbreak on businesses and how this will can affect their legal obligations.

Don't forget to visit the business support section of the **AXA Coronavirus Hub** to download the full range of ten rradar spotlight articles for use with your customers.

## 2.a rradar COVID-19 portal

Available at no cost to all broker employees. To access the rradar portal for the very latest practical support and legal guidance, a simple registration is required (name, email, password) click here to register





# 2.b What's new this week on the rradar COVID-19 portal

Keeping up to date on the changing legal, regulatory and economic developments is important to both brokers and their customers.

This week the rradar portal has refreshed guidance on Bounce Back Loans Scheme for small firms, ICO regulatory position during Coronavirus, Personal Protective Equipment, Coronavirus and Whistleblowing and much more.

**Download** document.









## 2.c Spotlight Articles

#### Coronavirus Bounce Back Loans Scheme for Small Firms

The UK Governments have introduced a new relief scheme called the Bounce Back Loans Scheme to help businesses survive during this extraordinary time.

**Download** to read the full article.



#### **Furlough Leave and Employment Tribunal Directions**

For businesses dealing with an ongoing Employment Tribunal claim there may be implications of utilising the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.







## ICO regulatory position during Coronavirus

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Coronavirus guidance states that Data Protection rules remain but are pragmatically enforced.

**Download** to read the full article.



#### **COVID-19 and Whistleblowing**

With the recent media attention around Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and staff raising their concerns, what protection do they have under "whistleblowing" legislation?





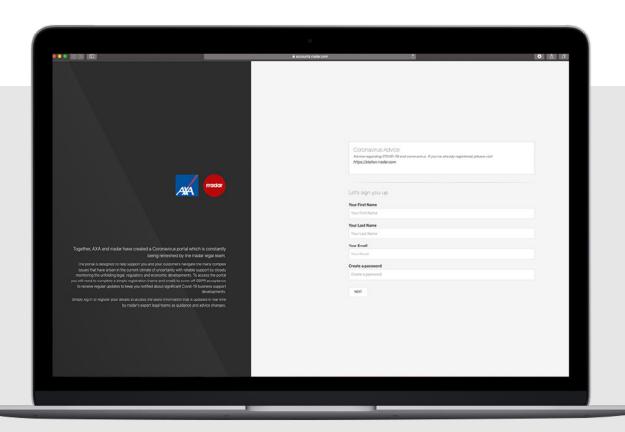


# 2.d Watch 'on demand': Part 2. Workplace disruption caused by coronavirus, statutory sick pay and short-term working and lay-off clauses.

You can now access part two of the rradar employment-focussed series, that aims to answer many of the questions businesses are querying with straightforward explanations of the government guidelines, so that you can comply and adapt.

#### Webinar Part 2:

Workplace disruption caused by coronavirus, statutory sick pay and short-term working and lay-off clauses.



Simply login to the rradar Coronavirus Portal to listen





## 2.e Working Well Toolkit

The past few weeks have thrown up numerous challenges for all our teams, but we recognise that for people managers balancing the needs of your new 'remote' team with those of the business is harder than ever before.

At AXA we want to do all we can to support you through this period, which is why we are working in partnership with HR Expert (and ex-broker), Gemma Martin to produce a 'Working Well' Manager Toolkit – support, guidance and tangible resources for broker managers and team leaders to help you overcome some of the people challenges you may be currently facing.

What is the toolkit and who is Gemma?



Simply click to watch video



## AXA's Working Well toolkit will provide you with:

- HR, Wellbeing, Sales and other relevant guidance and information to support you as a people manager
- Tools, useful templates, resources and access to free HR consultancy advice

Direct support to you as a manager, and materials you can share with employees and your own management team to keep them informed

### **Edition 1 - Setting Expectations**

As we embrace new ways of working, the importance of clearly outlining expectations for your team when working remotely is more important than ever. This means more than just monitoring output and delivery, and our content provides guidance and support on the following:

- How to set clear expectations
- How to measure productivity
- Effective Communication
- Avoiding isolation whilst in isolation
- Resources for you to share with your employees on topics such as explaining Covid-19 to your children and tips to manage anxiety









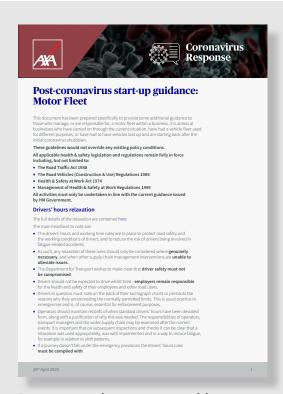
#### 2.f Back to Business

With the announcement that we're now past the peak of Coronavirus cases in the UK, there are indications that the current lockdown will gradually be relaxed.

We're producing a series of guides to help businesses returning to work. We've created the first three this week and will keep adding to these as new sectors of the economy start to open up again.

Post-coronavirus start-up guidance Subcontractors. **Download** to read the full article.





Post-coronavirus start-up guidance Motor Fleet. Download to read the full article.



Post-coronavirus start-up guidance Sprinkler installations. Download to read the full article.



# 3. Wellbeing & Resilience

In this update we share useful working from home tips from across the AXA Commercial team and a practical guide to vlogging from Ignition.

Remember you can download the full range of Wellbeing and Resilience resources by visiting the **Coronavirus Hub**.

# 3.a Wellbeing: Our team shares their working from home tips

We've called on the experiences of our employees across AXA Commercial to see what tips they could offer on working from home.

We've received over 100 suggestions, which we've shared across AXA Commercial and want to share with you too.

They're all included in this PDF document, grouped into 5 categories.







# 3.b Resilience: How to Vlog – a guide from Ignition

Many broker leaders and business owners discount vlogging as something that only millennials do. If so, they are definitely missing out on this human and low-cost way to get key messages across to both internal teams and customers.

This 'how to vlog' PDF produced by Ignition (AXA's 100% owned digital, education and broker marketing consultancy subsidiary business) is designed to help first time vloggers with practical hints and tips to build your confidence to embrace all the benefits vlogging delivers.



