

The new Lean Business Continuity Voucher, available through Local Enterprise Offices <https://www.localenterprise.ie/response/Business-Continuity-Voucher/> is designed for businesses across every sector that employ up to 50 people.

The voucher is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The goal is to help companies make informed decisions about what immediate measures and remedial actions should be taken, to protect staff and sales.

If your application is successful, a qualified expert will be selected by your Local Enterprise Office to work with you on your business continuity plans. The value of this service is up to a maximum of €2,500.

Under the Return to Work Safety Protocol <https://dbe.gov.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/Return-to-Work-Safely-Protocol.pdf> employers must provide a COVID-19 induction training for all workers. Each workplace must also appoint at least one lead worker representative charged with ensuring that COVID-19 measures are strictly adhered to in their place of work. The person(s) undertaking the role must receive the necessary training and have a structured framework to follow within the organisation to be effective in preventing the spread of the virus.

Employers must also communicate with safety representatives selected or appointed under current Occupational Health and Safety legislation and consult with workers on safety measures to be implemented in the workplace. The employer should use the appointed occupational safety and health officer or an external competent person to ensure the effective implementation of changes to work activities and the implementation of infection prevention and control measures in the workplace at the place of work.

At Logue & O'Connor Training and Consultancy Ltd, we can provide this training and associated supports for your business to get back on its feet again. We can assist you to:

- Develop and/or update your business COVID-19 Response Plan.
- Update your occupational health and safety risk assessments and Safety Statement.
- Address your level(s) of risk associated with your workplace(s) and work activities in your OSH risk assessments, e.g. where, how and to what sources of COVID-19 might workers be exposed, including the general public, customers, co-workers etc.
- Take into account your worker's individual risk factors (e.g. older workers, presence of underlying medical conditions, etc.).
- Include in your plan a response plan to deal with a suspected case of COVID-19.
- Include the controls necessary to address the risks identified.
- Include contingency measures to address increased rates of worker absenteeism, implementation of the measures necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19, changing work patterns, etc.

- Develop plans in consultation with you and your workers and communicate once finalised.

For further information please contact:

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