



## Briefing Note 14 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

### 1. **Headline developments announced on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Item	Source
A	Letter from Secretary of State to construction industry confirming construction work to continue under controlled conditions <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877074/secretary-of-state-letter-construction-industry.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877074/secretary-of-state-letter-construction-industry.pdf</a>
B	Construction site operating procedures issued 23 March 2020 by Construction Leadership Council <a href="http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Site-Operating-Procedures-23-March-2020.pdf">http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Site-Operating-Procedures-23-March-2020.pdf</a>
C	People are not allowed to take part in recreational flying as part of the government advice to stay home unless absolutely necessary <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-recreational-general-aviation/coronavirus-covid-19-recreational-general-aviation">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-recreational-general-aviation/coronavirus-covid-19-recreational-general-aviation</a>
D	Guidance for care of the deceased – for health professionals and other organisations <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased-with-suspected-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased-with-suspected-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19</a>
E	Approval given to new life-saving breathing aid to help keep hospital patients out of intensive care <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-approves-new-life-saving-breathing-aid-to-help-keep-coronavirus-covid-19-patients-out-of-intensive-care?">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-approves-new-life-saving-breathing-aid-to-help-keep-coronavirus-covid-19-patients-out-of-intensive-care?</a>
F	Government statement explaining measures to support disabled people <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-disabled-people-through-the-coronavirus-outbreak/supporting-disabled-people-through-the-coronavirus-outbreak">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-disabled-people-through-the-coronavirus-outbreak/supporting-disabled-people-through-the-coronavirus-outbreak</a>
G	Ministerial Press Briefing 5.15 pm 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chancellor-of-the-duchy-of-lancaster-opens-the-coronavirus-press-conference-31-march-2020?">https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chancellor-of-the-duchy-of-lancaster-opens-the-coronavirus-press-conference-31-march-2020?</a>
H	Link to slides and data sets used to support Ministerial Press Conference at 5.15 pm, 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-31-march-2020?">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-31-march-2020?</a>
I	Changes to the Care Act 2014 to allow local authorities to prioritise care and support <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities</a>
J	<b>UK statistics:</b> 1,789 dead (+361) 25,150 tested positive (+2,909) <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public</a>



## 2. Key Sources of Government Advice

Document	
A	<p><b>Coronavirus: action plan – A guide to what you can expect across the UK</b></p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869827/Coronavirus_action_plan_-_a_guide_to_what_you_can_expect_across_the_UK.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869827/Coronavirus_action_plan_-_a_guide_to_what_you_can_expect_across_the_UK.pdf</a></p>
B	<p><b>World Health Organisation advice</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019">https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019</a></p>
C	<p><b>NHS health advice</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</a></p>
D	<p><b>Mental health helplines</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/</a></p>
E	<p><b>Essential travel guidance</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance</a></p>
F	<p><b>Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and for vulnerable people</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults</a></p>
G	<p><b>Guidance for schools and other educational settings</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings</a></p>
H	<p><b>Guidance for schools and local authorities on maintaining educational provision</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</a></p>
I	<p><b>Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE): COVID-19 guidance</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response">https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response</a></p>
J	<p><b>Guidance for employees, employers and businesses</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</a></p>
K	<p><b>Measures to protect people at higher risk from Coronavirus</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19</a></p>
L	<p><b>Guidance on home care provision</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-home-care-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-home-care-provision</a></p>

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M	<p><b>Guidance on vulnerable children and young people</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people</a></p>
N	<p><b>Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children &amp; young people’s mental health</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak</a></p>
O	<p><b>Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing</a></p>
P	<p><b>Compliance advice for businesses and other venues directed to close</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures/businesses-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures/businesses-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures</a></p>
Q	<p><b>Emergency measures for railways to ensure continuity of operations and ticket refunds</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-ensures-ticket-refunds-and-protects-services-for-passengers-with-rail-emergency-measures">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-ensures-ticket-refunds-and-protects-services-for-passengers-with-rail-emergency-measures</a></p>
R	<p><b>Stay at home guidance</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance</a></p>
S	<p><b>Easy-read guide on protecting extremely vulnerable people – also known as ‘shielding’</b></p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf</a></p>
T	<p><b>Coronavirus Act 2020</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf</a></p>
U	<p><b>Guidance for UK businesses trading internationally</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses-trading-internationally">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses-trading-internationally</a></p>
V	<p><b>Guidance on cyber security and home working</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working">https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working</a></p>
W	<p><b>Guidance for local authorities for controlling fraud during COVID-19 emergency</b></p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875844/Fraud-Control-in-Emergency-Management-COVID-19-UK-Government-Guidance.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875844/Fraud-Control-in-Emergency-Management-COVID-19-UK-Government-Guidance.pdf</a></p>
X	<p><b>Guidance for closing certain businesses – as at 27 March 2020</b></p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876535/270320_Revised_Guidance.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876535/270320_Revised_Guidance.pdf</a></p>
Y	<p><b>Guidance on how to help safely</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely</a></p>



Z	<b>Financial help for the self-employed</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals</a>
A A	<b>How to check if you're covered under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme</a>
B B	<b>How employers can claim wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme</a>
C C	<b>New interim safeguarding guidance for schools, colleges and other premises in England</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers</a>
D D	<b>Non-statutory renting guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities in England</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?</a>
E E	<b>Collection of healthcare guidance for healthcare workers and others</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance</a>
F F	<b>Online support and practical guidance for those suffering with mental health issues</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19</a>
G G	<b>Small Business Grant Fund &amp; Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund – Version 3</b> <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876893/small-business-grant-fund-retail-guidance-vers-3.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876893/small-business-grant-fund-retail-guidance-vers-3.pdf</a>
H H	<b>Easy-read guide: looking after your feelings and body</b> <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876989/Easy_read_looking_after_your_feelings_and_body.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876989/Easy_read_looking_after_your_feelings_and_body.pdf</a>
I I	<b>Easy-read guide: staying at home</b> <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876715/Coronavirus_COVID-19_advice_on_staying_at_home_20200328.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876715/Coronavirus_COVID-19_advice_on_staying_at_home_20200328.pdf</a>
J J	<b>Easy-read guide: keeping away from other people</b> <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876699/COVID-19_Keeping_away_from_other_people_20200328.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876699/COVID-19_Keeping_away_from_other_people_20200328.pdf</a>
K K	<b>Guidance for parents &amp; carers on looking after mental health &amp; wellbeing of children</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak</a>

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### 3. Commentary

Reported deaths in the UK reached 1,789 and guidance on care of the deceased was updated for healthcare professional and other organisations. This is shown at the link at 1D and included in the collection of guidance at 2EE. The reported deaths now include deaths that have occurred in non-hospital settings.

During the daily ministerial press conference at 5.15 pm (accessible via 1G) there was a slight hint of optimism expressed by the Medical Director of NHS England, Professor Stephen Powis, when he said that new UK cases were not rising as rapidly and the data indicated a plateau. He pointed out that this was linked with the reduced social contact measures and reduced use of public transport. The message to keep following the government advice and slow the spread of infection, reduce the impact of infection and save lives was constantly emphasised.

The government has released data sets to support the presentation slides used at its daily ministerial briefings. The slides and data sets are available via the link at 1H. An Excel spreadsheet containing the data sets can be downloaded. The data sets give the following information:

- Daily hospital admissions in England
- Change in transport use
- New UK cases
- Global death comparisons (covering the UK, Spain, Italy, South Korea, France, USA, China and Germany)

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) has provided regulatory guidance to a team of University College London (UCL) and Mercedes Formula One engineers and clinicians to build an adapted Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device that delivers oxygen to the lungs without needing a ventilator. The device, which has now been approved to use in patients, provides breathing support and can help keep coronavirus patients out of intensive care units in hospital.

The government has issued 'easements' to the Care Act 2014 using temporary powers under the Coronavirus Act 2020. The easements – meaning amendment to, and relaxation of, certain statutory requirements - took legal effect on 31 March 2020. The government expects that they should only be exercised by local authorities where this is essential in order to maintain the highest possible level of services. Local authorities should comply with the pre-amendment Care Act provisions and related Care and Support Statutory Guidance for as long and as far as possible. Further details are accessible via the link shown at 1I.

Prepared by Tony Thompson 09:00, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020  
(+44) 7706 112416 [tony.thompson@otho.uk](mailto:tony.thompson@otho.uk)



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