



Briefing Note 22 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Thursday 9th April 2020

A. Headline developments announced on Wednesday 8th April 2020

Item		Source
A1	Guidance for those who provide unpaid care to family and friends	https://www.gov.uk/government/
A2	Ministerial letter of thanks to those working in manufacturing and industry in the UK	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878651/Letter from Secretary of State Alok Sharma a MP to those working in Manufacturing.pdf
A3	Ministerial letter of thanks to those in the retail sector in the UK	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878689/.pdf
A4	Press release: Pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies join forces on plans to roll out millions of tests	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/industry-responds-to-call-to-arms-to-build-british-diagnostics-industry-at-scale
A5	Presentation slides and data sets used to support the Ministerial Press Conference on Wednesday 8th April 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-8-april-2020?
A6	UK statistics: 7,097 dead (+938) 60,733 tested positive (+5,491)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public
A7	UK daily interactive statistical dashboard published by Public Health England showing UK cases and deaths	https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ae5dda8f86814ae99dde905d2a9070ae

B. Key Sources of Government Advice

Document	
B1	Glossary of terms used in government guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/glossary-of-terms
B2	Coronavirus: action plan – A guide to what you can expect across the UK 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
B3	World Health Organisation https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

B4	NHS health advice for everyone https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
B5	Mental health helplines https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/
B6	Essential travel guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance
B7	Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and for vulnerable people https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/
B8	Collection of guidance for schools and other educational settings https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings
B9	Guidance for schools and local authorities on maintaining educational provision https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/
B10	Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE): COVID-19 guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response
B11	Guidance for employees, employers and businesses https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19
B12	Measures to protect people at higher risk from Coronavirus https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/
B13	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
B14	Guidance on vulnerable children and young people https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/
B15	Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/
B16	Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance
B17	Guidance for parents and carers - supporting children & young people's mental health https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/

B18	<p>Compliance advice for businesses and other venues directed to close</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures/s</p>
B19	<p>Emergency measures for railways to ensure continuity of operations and ticket refunds</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-ensures-ticket-refunds-and-protects-services-for-passengers-with-rail-emergency-measures</p>
B20	<p>Easy-read guide on protecting extremely vulnerable people – also known as ‘shielding’</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf</p>
B21	<p>Coronavirus Act 2020</p> <p>http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf</p>
B22	<p>Guidance for UK businesses trading internationally</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses-trading-internationally</p>
B23	<p>Guidance on cyber security and home working</p> <p>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working</p>
B24	<p>Guidance for local authorities for controlling fraud during COVID-19 emergency</p> <p>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</p>
B25	<p>Guidance for closing certain businesses – as at 27 March 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876535/270320_Revised_Guidance.pdf</p>
B26	<p>Guidance on how to help safely</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely</p>
B27	<p>Financial help for the self-employed</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals</p>
B28	<p>How to check if you’re covered under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme</p>
B29	<p>Collection of healthcare guidance for healthcare workers and others</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance</p>
B30	<p>How employers can claim wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme</p>

B31	New interim safeguarding guidance for schools, colleges and other premises in England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/
B32	Non-statutory renting guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities in England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?
B33	Online support and practical guidance for those suffering with mental health issues https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/
B34	Small Business Grant Fund & Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund – Version 3 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876893/small-business-grant-fund-retail-guidance-vers-3.pdf
B35	Easy-read guide: looking after your feelings and body https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876989/Easy_read_looking_after_your_feelings_and_body.pdf
B36	Easy-read guide: staying at home https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876715/
B37	Easy-read guide: keeping away from other people https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876699/COVID-19_Keeping_away_from_other_people_20200328.pdf
B38	Guidance for parents & carers on looking after mental health & wellbeing of children https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/
B39	Construction site operating procedures – version 2 (updated 2 April 2020) http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Site-Operating-Procedures-02-April-2020-v2.pdf
B40	Changes to the Care Act 2014 allowing local authorities to prioritise care and support https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities
B41	Guidance for care of the deceased – for health professionals and other organisations https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/
B42	Guidance for local authorities for implementing grant funds – version 3 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877286/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-guidance-v3.pdf
B43	Guidance on childcare and early years closures https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures

B44	<p>Guidance for businesses on grant funding schemes: Version 2 – 3rd April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878082/pdf</p>
B45	<p>Business Support – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)</p> <p>https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/faqs/</p>
B46	<p>Expanded retail discount 2020-2021: guidance to local authorities at 2 April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877758/Expanded_Retail_Discount_Guidance_02.04.20.pdf</p>
B47	<p>Grant funding allocations by local authority in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding?</p>
B48	<p>Launch of project fund bids to UK businesses for innovation – ends 17 April 2020</p> <p>https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/583/overview</p>
B49	<p>Admission and care of people in care homes: Version 1 -2nd April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877797/covid-19-care-homes-guidance.pdf</p>
B50	<p>Guidance on maintaining further education</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/</p>
B51	<p>Guidance for head teachers on how educational qualifications will be graded in 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877930/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_heads_of_centres.pdf</p>
B52	<p>Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers on educational grades in 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf</p>
B53	<p>Project funding available for innovation: competition closes on 17th April 2020</p> <p>https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/583/overview</p>
B54	<p>Guidance for local authorities to support and protect vulnerable children</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/</p>
B55	<p>Coronavirus Status Checker - Online Survey</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-status-checker</p>
B56	<p>Government plans for scaling up testing programmes – issued 3rd April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878121/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-strategy.pdf</p>

B57	<p>Management of exposed healthcare workers and patients in hospitals</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/</p>
B58	<p>Call for evidence by parliamentary Women & Equalities Committee: ends 30 April 2020</p> <p>https://committees.parliament.uk/work/227/coronavirus-and-the-impact-on-people-with-protected-characteristics/</p>
B59	<p>Safety guidance for towpaths and waterways from the Canal and River Trust</p> <p>https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/coronavirus</p>
B60	<p>Postponement of elections</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878332/Coronavirus_COVID-19_-_letter_to_councils_about_local_authority_meetings_and_postponement_of_elections.pdf</p>
B61	<p>Procurement policy guidance to public bodies on payment of their suppliers</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0220-supplier-relief-due-to-covid-19</p>
B62	<p>Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessors</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response/</p>
B63	<p>Recruitment for Healthcare Support Workers at London NHS Nightingale Hospital</p> <p>https://www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk/en/Nightingale/Nightingale/Nightingale-London</p>
B64	<p>Funding to support schools with exceptional costs</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools/</p>
B65	<p>Free school meals guidance for schools</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/</p>
B66	<p>Guidance to local authorities in England on prioritising waste collections</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-to-local-authorities-on-prioritising-waste-collections/</p>
B67	<p>Prime Minister's letter to the nation</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876876/CCS155_CCS0320349160-003_PM_letter_to_nation_on_coronavirus_Accessible.pdf</p>
B68	<p>Coronavirus public information leaflet accompanying Prime Minister's letter</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877678/coronavirus-leaflet.pdf</p>

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B69	Increase to Working Tax Credits with effect from 6th April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increase-to-working-tax-credits-what-this-means
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C. Commentary

The Prime Minister remains in the intensive care unit at St Thomas' Hospital, London and is reported as 'improving' and sitting up in bed.

At the daily ministerial press briefing at 5pm the Chancellor of the Exchequer paid tribute to the work of the voluntary and charity sector in the UK and the part they were playing in helping the nation respond to the coronavirus pandemic. There are almost 170,000 charities in the UK and the Chancellor acknowledged the significant financial impact the disease was having on their ability to raise funds. In recognition of this shortfall he announced an emergency fund of £750 million to help the sector survive during the crisis. He allocated £360 million for charities who are providing key services and helping vulnerable people during the crisis – such as delivering food and medicines and providing financial advice. Money will also be directed at local charities.

The Chancellor announced that the government will support the BBC's 'The Big Night In' which will be broadcast on BBC One on Thursday 23 April, between 7-10pm. The Big Night In will see the BBC's Children in Need and Comic Relief joining together for the very first time for a special night of television and fundraising. The Chancellor pledged at least £20 million to the appeal and said that the government will match public donations 'pound for pound'.

During the press briefing there was some reported encouraging signs that the number of people requiring critical care beds was not accelerating as initially anticipated and this trend was also reflected in the number of confirmed new cases.

The number of reported deaths in UK hospitals reached a daily high of 938 although it is acknowledged that the counting and analysis of overall coronavirus deaths is affected both by the time lag in reporting and the current exclusion of deaths in the community and care homes.