



Briefing Note 34 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Tuesday 21st April 2020

A. Headline developments announced on Monday 20th April 2020

	Item	Source
A1	Chancellor announces £1.25 billion support package for UK firms driving innovation (press release)	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-support-package-for-innovative-firms-hit-by-coronavirus
A2	Testing capacity increases as second Lighthouse laboratory becomes fully operational in Cheshire (press release)	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-support-package-for-innovative-firms-hit-by-coronavirus
A3	Financial support for businesses: headline terms for the new 'Future Fund' announced by the Chancellor	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880119/Convertible_Loan_Key_Terms_-_Final_Version_.pdf
A4	Launch of business support online tool for employers and the self-employed	https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder
A5	Letter to councils setting out additional funding for local authorities in England	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880292/200420_Simon_Clarke_letter_to_all_LAs.pdf
A7	Grant payments made by local authorities in England to businesses in their council areas as at 20 th April 2020	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880286/200420_local_authority_grant_payments.csv/preview
A8	Chancellor's statement at 5pm media briefing	https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chancellor-delivers-daily-coronavirus-update-20-april-2020
A9	Presentation slides and datasets used to support the ministerial media briefing on Monday 20 th April 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-20-april-2020
A10	UK statistics: 16,509 dead (+449) 124,743 tested positive (+4,676)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public
A11	UK government COVID-19 data tracker	https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
A12	Office for National Statistics (ONS): data and analysis on COVID-19 in the UK and its effect on the economy and society	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases



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/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing
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	Coronavirus Act 2020 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf
B19	Guidance on cyber security and home working https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working
B20	Compliance advice for businesses and other venues directed to close https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures/s
B21	Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) : Collection of Guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mhra-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19
B22	Easy-read guide on protecting extremely vulnerable people – also known as ‘shielding’ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf
B23	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
B24	Guidance on how to help safely https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely
B25	Guidance for closing certain businesses – as at 27 March 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876535/270320_Revised_Guidance.pdf
B26	Guidance for local authorities for controlling fraud during COVID-19 emergency 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
B27	Collection of guidance for healthcare professionals and others https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance



B28	Financial help for the self-employed https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals
B29	How to check if you're covered under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme
B30	How employers can claim wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme
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 3 (updated 14 April 2020) https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Site-Operating-Procedures-Version-3.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	<p>Guidance for care of the deceased – for health professionals and other organisations</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/</p>
B42	<p>Guidance for local authorities for implementing grant funds – version 3</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877286/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-guidance-v3.pdf</p>
B43	<p>Closure of schools and other educational settings: guidance for parents and carers</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/</p>
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>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>
B49	<p>Guidance on maintaining further education</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/</p>
B50	<p>Guidance for head teachers on awarding qualifications in summer 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878848/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_heads_of_centres.pdf</p>
B51	<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>
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/878869/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_09APR2020.pdf</p>
B53	<p>Coronavirus Status Checker - Online Survey</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-status-checker</p>



B54	<p>Summer 2020 results for vocational, technical and other qualifications</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879019/Summer 2020 results for vocational technical and other qualifications.pdf</p>
B55	<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>
B56	<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>
B57	<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>
B58	<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>
B59	<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>
B60	<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>
B61	<p>Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessors</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response/</p>
B62	<p>Recruitment for Healthcare Support Workers at London NHS Nightingale Hospital</p> <p>https://www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk/en/Nightingale/Nightingale/Nightingale-London</p>
B63	<p>Free school meals guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/</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>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>
B66	<p>Guidance for those who provide unpaid care to family and friends</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/</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>
B69	<p>Coronavirus easy-read public information leaflet</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879412/coronavirus-leaflet-easy-read.pdf</p>
B70	<p>Increase to Working Tax Credits with effect from 6th April 2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increase-to-working-tax-credits-what-this-means</p>
B71	<p>Hospital discharge service requirements</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874213/COVID-19_hospital_discharge_service_requirements.pdf</p>
B72	<p>Infection control stepdown precautions when discharging from hospital to home</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-stepdown-of-infection-control-precautions-within-hospitals-and-discharging-covid-19-patients-from-hospital-to-home-settings/</p>
B73	<p>Guidance for health and social care staff caring for people lacking mental capacity</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878910/Emergency_MCA_DoLS_Guidance_COVID19.pdf</p>
B74	<p>Guidance for organisations with laboratory testing capability</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879087/Guidance_for_Laboratories_offering_support_for_COVID-19_testing_for_publication_2_.pdf</p>
B75	<p>Coronavirus Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hub</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe</p>
B76	<p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Plan</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879117/Coronavirus_COVID-19_-_personal_protective_equipment_PPE_plan.pdf</p>
B77	<p>Support for victims of domestic abuse announced by Home Secretary 11th April 2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-outlines-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims</p>
B78	<p>‘Silent Solution’ system: contacting the police by mobile phone if you can’t speak</p> <p>https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/research-learning/Silent_solution_guide.pdf</p>



B79	UK financial assistance to help reduce mass infections in developing countries https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus
B80	UK Government COVID-19 data tracker https://obr.uk/coronavirus-reference-scenario/
B81	Adult Social Care Action Plan (published 15th April 2020) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879639/covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan.pdf
B82	Ofqual consultation for 2020 exam grading: online response closes 29th April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020
B83	Government data sources and methodology for gathering transport use data https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-transport-data-methodology-note/
B84	Guidance for local authorities on implementing the £500 million hardship fund https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879764/32020
B85	Guidance for consumers on how to maintain food hygiene https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-consumers-on-coronavirus-covid-19-and-food/
B86	Guidance on COVID-19 testing for frontline workers who are self-isolating https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested
B87	Step-by-step guidance for employers about how to claim under Job Retention Scheme https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880092/Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme step by step guide for employers.pdf
B88	Directions to councils in England to allow family members to attend funerals https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880093/Letter from Minister Simon Clarke.pdf
B89	Statutory guidance to local authorities in England on local death management https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880047/Schedule 28 local death management guidance.pdf
B90	Guidance for managing a funeral during the pandemic https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/
B91	Guidance for special schools managing children with complex needs (SEND) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/



B92	Launch of Oak National Academy – an online teaching resource for teachers https://www.thenational.academy/
B93	BBC Bitesize: Online support for students in primary and secondary schools https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

C. Commentary

The continuing challenge of obtaining sufficient quantities of personal protective equipment from UK and international sources was the opening item in the Chancellor’s address at the 5pm daily media briefing. He explained about the efforts that are being made to source supplies at home and abroad.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme opened online at 8am and the Chancellor reported that by 4pm over 140,000 business have applied for staff wages support under the scheme. A link to how employers can claim under the scheme is at B87.

Additional financial support measures were announced, including support for local authorities, a new scheme for businesses named the ‘Future Fund’, and grant and loan funding for what was described as ‘highly innovative firms’ in every sector, every region and nation of the UK. Details of the Future Fund will be announced in May although initial ‘headline terms’ have been released and a weblink is at A3.

Grants distributed by local authorities to businesses in England were published showing the amounts allocated and distributed by each local authority as at 20th April, and a weblink to the data is at A7.

The government launched an online Business Support Tool for employers and self-employed and a weblink is at A4. The purpose of the tool is to help guide people through the ever-increasing volume of detailed guidance and advice that is available. It should help people discover whether they are eligible for loans, tax relief and cash grants, and find out how to apply for them.