



Briefing Note 39 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Sunday 26th April 2020

A. Headline developments announced on Saturday 25th April 2020

Item		Source
A1	Approval given for clinical trials to use plasma to treat patients suffering from COVID-19 (press release).	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clinical-trial-approved-to-help-the-nhs-treat-covid-19-patients-using-plasma
A2	Online portal for those who have had a positive test result for COVID-19, or have had symptoms, and want to register to take part in donating plasma	https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/how-you-can-help/convalescent-plasma-clinical-trial/
A3	Communities Secretary welcomes the opening of over 340 parks by local authorities in England (press release).	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/communities-secretary-welcomes-response-to-his-call-for-parks-to-open
A4	Mobile units to be increased and operated by the Armed Forces around the UK to test frontline workers (press release).	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-coronavirus-testing-units-to-target-frontline-workers
A5	Presentation slides and datasets used to support the ministerial media briefing on Saturday 25 th April 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-25-april-2020
A6	UK statistics: 20,319 dead (+813) 148,377 tested positive (+4,913)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public
A7	UK government COVID-19 data tracker	https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
A8	Office for National Statistics (ONS): Analysis of COVID-19 data and its effect on the UK 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	<p>Guidance for parents and carers - supporting children & young people's mental health</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/</p>
B18	<p>Coronavirus Act 2020</p> <p>http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf</p>
B19	<p>Guidance on cyber security and home working</p> <p>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working</p>
B20	<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>
B21	<p>Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) : Collection of Guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mhra-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19</p>
B22	<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>
B23	<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>
B24	<p>How to help safely: guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely</p>
B25	<p>How to help safely: easy-read guide</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879411/how-to-help-safely-easy-read-lo-res_v3.pdf</p>
B26	<p>Collection of guidance for healthcare professionals and others</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus</p>
B27	<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>
B28	<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>
B29	<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>



B30	<p>How to check if you are 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>
B31	<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>
B32	<p>New interim safeguarding guidance for schools, colleges and other premises in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/</p>
B33	<p>Non-statutory renting guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?</p>
B34	<p>Online support and practical guidance for those suffering with mental health issues</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/</p>
B35	<p>Small Business Grant Fund & Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund – Version 3</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876893/small-business-grant-fund-retail-guidance-vers-3.pdf</p>
B36	<p>Easy-read guide: looking after your feelings and body</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876989/Easy_read_looking_after_your_feelings_and_body.pdf</p>
B37	<p>Easy-read guide: staying at home</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876715/</p>
B38	<p>Easy-read guide: keeping away from other people</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876699/COVID-19_Keeping_away_from_other_people_20200328.pdf</p>
B39	<p>Guidance for parents & carers on looking after mental health & wellbeing of children</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/</p>
B40	<p>Construction site operating procedures – version 3 (updated 14 April 2020)</p> <p>https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Site-Operating-Procedures-Version-3.pdf</p>
B41	<p>Changes to the Care Act 2014 allowing local authorities to prioritise care and support</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities</p>



B42	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/
B43	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
B44	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
B45	Guidance for businesses on grant funding schemes: Version 2 – 3rd April 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878082/pdf
B46	Business Support – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/faqs/
B47	Expanded retail discount 2020-2021: guidance to local authorities at 2 April 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877758/Expanded_Retail_Discount_Guidance_02.04.20.pdf
B48	Grant funding allocations by local authority in England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding?
B49	Admission and care of people in care homes: Version 1 -2nd April 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877797/covid-19-care-homes-guidance.pdf
B50	Guidance on maintaining further education https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/
B51	Guidance for head teachers on awarding qualifications in summer 2020 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
B52	Guidance for local authorities to support and protect vulnerable children https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/
B53	Coronavirus Status Checker - Online Survey https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-status-checker
B54	Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers on educational grades in 2020 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



B55	<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>
B56	<p>Free school meals guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/</p>
B57	<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>
B58	<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>
B59	<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>
B60	<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>
B61	<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>
B62	<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>
B63	<p>Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessors</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response/</p>
B64	<p>Recruitment for Healthcare Support Workers at London NHS Nightingale Hospital</p> <p>https://www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk/en/Nightingale/Nightingale/Nightingale-London</p>
B65	<p>Funding to support schools with exceptional costs</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools/</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	Guidance for those who provide unpaid care to family and friends https://www.gov.uk/government/
B68	Prime Minister's letter to the nation 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
B69	Coronavirus public information leaflet accompanying Prime Minister's letter https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877678/coronavirus-leaflet.pdf
B70	Coronavirus easy-read public information leaflet https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879412/coronavirus-leaflet-easy-read.pdf
B71	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
B72	Hospital discharge service requirements https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874213/COVID-19_hospital_discharge_service_requirements.pdf
B73	Infection control stepdown precautions when discharging from hospital to home 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/
B74	Guidance for health and social care staff caring for people lacking mental capacity https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878910/Emergency_MCA_DoLS_Guidance_COVID19.pdf
B75	Guidance for organisations with laboratory testing capability 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
B76	Coronavirus Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hub https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe
B77	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Plan https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879117/Coronavirus_COVID-19_-_personal_protective_equipment_PPE_plan.pdf
B78	Support for victims of domestic abuse announced by Home Secretary 11th April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-outlines-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims



B79	'Silent Solution' system: contacting the police by mobile phone if you cannot speak https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/research-learning/Silent_solution_guide.pdf
B80	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
B81	UK Government COVID-19 data tracker https://obr.uk/coronavirus-reference-scenario/
B82	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
B83	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
B84	Government data sources and methodology for gathering transport use data https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-transport-data-methodology-note/
B85	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
B86	Guidance for consumers on how to maintain food hygiene https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-consumers-on-coronavirus-covid-19-and-food/
B87	Guidance on COVID-19 testing for frontline workers who are self-isolating https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested
B88	Step-by-step guidance for employers: 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
B89	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
B90	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
B91	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/



B92	Information leaflet for the bereaved https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880807/Bereavement-Leaflet-digital.pdf
B93	Guidance for special schools managing children with complex needs (SEND) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/
B94	Launch of Oak National Academy – an online teaching resource for teachers https://www.thenational.academy/
B95	BBC Bitesize: Online support for students in primary and secondary schools https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
B96	Financial support for businesses: Headline terms for ‘Future Fund’ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880119/Convertible_Loan_Key_Terms_-_Final_Version_.pdf
B97	Online support tool for employers and the self-employed https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder
B98	Grant payments made to businesses by local authority area as at 20th April 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880286/200420_local_authority_grant_payments.csv/preview
B99	PPE export controls on UK companies trading internationally https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/
B100	Collection of guidance for those involved in managing deaths https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-those-involved-in-managing-covid-19-deaths/
B101	Guidance from the DVSA to driver and rider trainers in England, Scotland and Wales https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-letter-from-dvsa-chief-executive-to-driver-and-rider-trainers
B102	Testing arrangements for essential workers in England with COVID-19 symptoms https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#arrange-a-test
B103	Booking tests: User guide for essential workers in England with COVID-19 symptoms https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/881043/covid-19-testing-self-referral-portal-user-guide.pdf
B104	Directions given to the NHS to disclose cyber security information to GCHQ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879049/Security_of_NHS_and_Public_Health_Services_Digital_Systems_Coronavirus_Directions_2020.pdf
B105	Ofqual consultation on vocational and technical qualifications: closes 8th May 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-assessment-and-grading-in-2020



C. Commentary

Mobile vehicle testing units operated by the Armed Forces will be travelling around the UK to increase testing for frontline workers. The vehicle fitting-out design was developed by the Royal Engineers of the British Army and has been successful in the eight mobile units currently deployed. Additional testing units are being rolled out to provide extra capacity. This will include care homes, police stations, fire and rescue services, prisons and benefit centres.

A clinical trial has been given approval to determine if plasma donated by patients who have recovered from COVID-19 can help people suffering from the virus. The trial, if proved effective, will be scaled-up to deliver up to 10,000 units of convalescent plasma per week to the NHS. This is calculated to provide enough convalescent plasma to treat 5,000 patients each week. An online portal for those who have had a positive test result for COVID-19, or have had symptoms, and want to register to take part in donating plasma is now available and a weblink is at A2.

The 5pm ministerial media briefing was led by the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, who reported a significant reduction in reported crime. That said, she highlighted the fact that criminals were continuously seeking to find ways to exploit the current situation and identified online scams that were taking place and the measures being taken by law enforcement agencies to combat this.

The Home Secretary was accompanied by Lynne Owens, Director General of the National Crime Agency, who reinforced the need to take care when online. She explained that criminals are adapting to the 'new situation'. She referred to useful guidance contained in the **Thinkuknow** online education programme which is accessible via <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>. The programme is provided by NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline. The site leads to six **Thinkuknow** websites for advice about how to stay safe when using a phone, tablet or computer.