



## Briefing Note 04 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

### 1. **Headline developments announced on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

	Item	Source
A	New guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from COVID-19	<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>
B	Appeal to population to behave responsibly and not keep stockpiling certain products – there is no shortage	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51989721">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51989721</a>
C	UK: 233 dead (+56) 5,018 tested positive (+1,035)	<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	<b>Coronavirus: action plan – A guide to what you can expect across the UK</b> <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>
B	<b>World Health Organisation advice</b> <a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019">https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019</a>
C	<b>NHS health advice</b> <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</a>
D	<b>Social distancing and protecting older people and vulnerable adults</b> <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>
E	<b>Guidance for schools and local authorities on maintaining educational provision</b> <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>
F	<b>Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE): COVID-19 guidance</b> <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>
G	<b>Support for businesses and people</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses</a>

H	<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>
I	<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>
J	<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>

### 3. Commentary

Detailed new measures were announced to protect people, including children, who are at very high risk of severe illness because of an underlying health condition, and for their family, friends and carers. It is intended for use in situations where the extremely vulnerable person is living in their own home, with or without additional support. This includes the extremely clinically vulnerable people living in long-term care facilities, either for the elderly or persons with special needs.

‘Shielding’ has been introduced as a measure to protect people who are clinically extremely vulnerable by minimising all interaction between them and others. People with specified serious underlying health conditions are strongly advised to rigorously follow shielding measures to keep themselves safe. Extremely vulnerable includes:

- Solid organ transplant recipients
- People with specific cancers – listed in the guidance
- People with severe respiratory conditions, including cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD
- People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infection (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell)
- People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection
- Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired

The NHS in England is directly contacting some 1.5 million people with these conditions to provide further advice. Anyone who thinks they fall into one of the categories and have not received a letter by Sunday 29 March 2020 or been contacted by their GP, should discuss their concerns with their GP or hospital clinician. Individuals are strongly advised to stay at home at all times and avoid any face-to-face contact for a period of at least 12 weeks from the day they receive their letter.

Guidance on home care provision was updated on 19<sup>th</sup> March for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and registered providers, who support and deliver care to people in their own homes, including community health services. This guidance sets out key messages to support planning and preparation in the event of widespread transmission of the virus.