



Briefing Note 06 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Tuesday 24th March 2020

1. **Headline developments announced on Monday 23rd March 2020**

	Item	Source
A	The Prime Minister's Instructions Guidance on staying at home and away from others	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874742/Full_guidance_on_staying_at_home_and_away_from_others_1.pdf
B	Further business and premises ordered to close	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874732/230320_-_Revised_guidance_note_-_finalVF.pdf
C	Universities told not to alter applicant's offers	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-told-not-to-alter-applicants-offers
D	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) guidance for industry regarding ventilators and test kits, and updated Ibuprofen advice	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mhra-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19
E	UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of Coronavirus and future pandemics with £20 million investment	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus
F	Directions given to the NHS Commissioning Board to allow NHS England to commission healthcare from the independent sector providers until end of 2020	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874288/The_Exercise_of_Commissioning_Functions_by_the_NHS_Commissioning_Board_Coronavirus_Directions_2020.pdf
G	Working Tax Credits payments will be increased by £1,045 to £3,040 per year from 6 April 2020 until 5 April 20	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increase-to-working-tax-credits-what-this-means
H	Updated guidance for employees, employers and businesses	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19
I	Funding of up to £25,000 per company is available through the 'Techforce19' challenge to support people who are isolating	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-technology-challenge-to-support-people-who-are-isolating
J	All British travellers advised to return to the UK now by Foreign Secretary	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-advises-all-british-travellers-to-return-to-the-uk-now
K	UK statistics: 335 dead (+54) 6,650 tested positive (+967)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

2. Key Sources of Government Advice

Document	
A	<p>Coronavirus: action plan – A guide to what you can expect across the UK</p> <p>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</p>
B	<p>World Health Organisation advice</p> <p>https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019</p>
C	<p>NHS health advice</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</p>
D	<p>Social distancing and protecting older people and vulnerable adults</p> <p>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</p>
E	<p>Guidance on social distancing and for vulnerable people</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people</p>
F	<p>Guidance for schools and other educational settings</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings</p>
G	<p>Guidance for schools and local authorities on maintaining educational provision</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</p>
H	<p>Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE): COVID-19 guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response</p>
I	<p>Support for businesses and people</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses</p>
J	<p>Measures to protect people at higher risk from Coronavirus</p> <p>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</p>
K	<p>Guidance on home care provision</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-home-care-provision</p>
L	<p>Mental health helplines</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/</p>



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M	Guidance on children and young people under 25 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
N	Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing
O	Essential travel guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance
P	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/businesses-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures
Q	Emergency measures for railways to ensure continuity of operations and ticket refunds https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-ensures-ticket-refunds-and-protects-services-for-passengers-with-rail-emergency-measures

3. Commentary

A major development was announced by the Prime Minister at 8.30 pm last night when he issued an instruction to the UK population to stay at home for a period of at least three weeks. What he said can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-the-nation-on-coronavirus-23-march-2020>

We should only leave our homes for these reasons:

- **Shopping for basic necessities**, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible;
- **One form of exercise a day**, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of our household;
- **Any medical need**, or to **provide care** or to **help a vulnerable person**;
- **Travelling to and from work**, but **only where this absolutely cannot be done from home**.