



Briefing Note 09 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Friday 27th March 2020

1. **Headline developments announced on Thursday 26th March 2020**

	Item	Source
A	Guidance on cyber security and homeworking	https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working
B	A summary of what the Coronavirus Act will do	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-bill-what-it-will-do/what-the-coronavirus-bill-will-do
C	Guidance for public authorities for controlling fraud during the COVID-19	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
D	Guidance on closing certain businesses – updated 26 March 2020	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876281/260320_Revised_Guidance.pdf
E	Guidance on how to help safely	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely
F	Financial support for the self-employed	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals
G	Free access to Financial Times COVID-19 articles	https://www.ft.com/coronavirusfree
H	UK statistics: 578 dead (+115) 11,658 tested positive (+2,129)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

2. **Key Sources of Government Advice**

	Document
A	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
B	World Health Organisation advice https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
C	NHS health advice https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
D	Mental health helplines https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/

E	<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>
F	<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>
G	<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>
H	<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>
I	<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>
J	<p>Guidance for employees, employers and businesses</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</p>
K	<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>
L	<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>
M	<p>Guidance on children and young people under 25</p> <p>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</p>
N	<p>Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing</p>
O	<p>Essential travel guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance</p>
P	<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/businesses-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures</p>

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
R	Stay at home guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance
S	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
T	Coronavirus Act 2020 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf
U	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

3. Commentary

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has issued guidance to help organisations reduce the risk of cyber-attack if they are introducing or scaling up homeworking which presents cyber security challenges that must be managed. In addition, cyber criminals are preying on fears of the coronavirus and sending 'phishing' emails that try and trick users into clicking on a link to a bad website (which could download malware onto their computer or steal passwords). The NCSC guidance recommends steps to take if your organisation is introducing (or scaling up the amount of) homeworking and provides some tips on how individuals can spot the typical signs of phishing emails.

Government guidance has been issued to public bodies so that they can reduce the threat of widespread fraud by integrating low-friction controls into payments where possible and carrying out post-event assurance work. It is assessed that the threat of fraud during emergencies is higher than at other times.

Updated guidance on closing certain businesses and venues has been extended to Wales and Scotland by Ministerial Direction. As of 2pm on 26 March 2020 new Regulations extending the restrictions are now enforceable by law in England due to the threat to public health. These supersede Regulations that came into force at 2pm on 21 March 2020.

The Chancellor announced a new scheme to help those who are self-employed. This brings parity with the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, announced by the Chancellor last week. Individuals should not contact HMRC now. HMRC will use existing information to check potential eligibility and invite applications once the scheme is operational.

The Financial Times has granted free access to dedicated COVID-19 articles and information.