



Briefing Note 10 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Saturday 28th March 2020

1. **Headline developments announced on Friday 27th March 2020**

Item		Source
A	Prime Minister's video message posted on Twitter and transcript of what he said	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52060791 Transcript here: https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-video-message-on-coronavirus-27-march-2020?
B	How to check if you're covered under Job Retention Scheme	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme
C	How employers can claim wages through Job Retention Scheme	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme
D	Government launches new drive on coronavirus tests for frontline NHS staff (Press Release)	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-drive-on-coronavirus-tests-for-frontline-nhs-staff
E	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/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers
F	UK statistics: 759 dead (+181) 14,579 tested positive (+2,921)	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	Essential travel guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance

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 vulnerable children and young people</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>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>
P	<p>Emergency measures for railways to ensure continuity of operations and ticket refunds</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-ensures-ticket-refunds-and-protects-services-for-passengers-with-rail-emergency-measures</p>
Q	<p>Stay at home guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance</p>

R	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
S	Coronavirus Act 2020 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf
T	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
U	Guidance on cyber security and home working https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working
V	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
W	Guidance for closing certain businesses – as at 276 March 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876535/270320_Revised_Guidance.pdf
X	Guidance on how to help safely https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely
Y	Financial help for the self-employed https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals

3. Commentary

The Prime Minister announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19 and issued a video message. Confirmation that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care had also tested positive followed soon after. The Chief Medical Officer announced he is self-isolating after displaying symptoms.

The government is planning to make the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme available to UK employers by the end of April 2020. Employers will be able to use a portal to claim for 80% of furloughed workers wages up to £2,500 a month starting from 1st March 2020. The temporary Scheme will be open for at least three months. Employers must have started a PAYE payroll scheme on or before 28th February 2020. A ‘furloughed’ worker is someone who has been asked to stop working because their employer cannot cover their payroll costs due to coronavirus but has not been made redundant.

The government will be amending regulations to allow workers who have not taken all their statutory annual leave entitlement due to COVID-19 to carry it over to the next two leave years.

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