



Briefing Note 16 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Friday 3rd April 2020

1. **Headline developments announced on Thursday 2nd April 2020**

	Item	Source
A	Expanded retail discount 2020 to 2021: coronavirus response – guidance to local authorities - 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
B	Grant funding allocations by local authority in England – spreadsheet for download or online viewing	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding?
C	Admission and care of people in care homes: How to protect care home residents and staff. (Version 1, 2 April 2020)	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877797/covid-19-care-homes-guidance.pdf
D	Ministerial Press Briefing 5.30 pm 2 nd April 2020 – announcement on five-pillar plan to increase testing	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-sets-out-plan-to-carry-out-100000-coronavirus-tests-a-day
E	Link to slides and data sets used to support Ministerial Press Conference at 5.30 pm, 2 nd April 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-2-april-2020?
F	UK statistics: 2,921 dead (+569) 33,718 tested positive (+4,244)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public
G	UK daily interactive statistical dashboard published by Public Health England showing UK cases and deaths	https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ae5dda8f86814ae99dde905d2a9070ae

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/

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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	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/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults
G	Guidance for schools and other educational settings https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings
H	Guidance for schools 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
I	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
J	Guidance for employees, employers and businesses https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19
K	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/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19
L	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
M	Guidance on vulnerable children and young people 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 for parents and carers on supporting children & young people's mental health https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak
O	Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing

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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	<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>
R	<p>Stay at home guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance</p>
S	<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>
T	<p>Coronavirus Act 2020</p> <p>http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf</p>
U	<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>
V	<p>Guidance on cyber security and home working</p> <p>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working</p>
W	<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>
X	<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>
Y	<p>Guidance on how to help safely</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely</p>
Z	<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>
A A	<p>How to check if you’re 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>
B B	<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>

C C	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
D D	Non-statutory renting guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities in England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?
E E	Collection of healthcare guidance for healthcare workers and others https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance
F F	Online support and practical guidance for those suffering with mental health issues https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19
G G	Small Business Grant Fund & Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund – Version 3 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876893/small-business-grant-fund-retail-guidance-vers-3.pdf
H H	Easy-read guide: looking after your feelings and body https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876989/Easy_read_looking_after_your_feelings_and_body.pdf
I I	Easy-read guide: staying at home https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876715/Coronavirus_COVID-19_advice_on_staying_at_home_20200328.pdf
J J	Easy-read guide: keeping away from other people https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876699/COVID-19_Keeping_away_from_other_people_20200328.pdf
K K	Guidance for parents & carers on looking after mental health & wellbeing of children https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak
L L	Construction site operating procedures – version 2 (updated 2 April 2020) http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Site-Operating-Procedures-02-April-2020-v2.pdf
M M	Guidance for care of the deceased – for health professionals and other organisation https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased-with-suspected-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19
N N	Changes to the Care Act 2014 allowing local authorities to prioritise care and support https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities



O O	<p>Guidance for local authorities for implementing grant funds – version 3</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877286/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-guidance-v3.pdf</p>
P P	<p>Guidance for businesses on grant funding schemes</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877301/small-business-grant-and-retail-leisure-hospitality-grant-guidance-for-businesses.pdf</p>
Q Q	<p>Guidance on childcare and early years closures</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures</p>

3. Commentary

The ministerial press briefing held at 5.30 pm was led by Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. He announced a strategy which sets out the government’s ambitions to increase the UK testing capability. The five-pillar strategy consists of:

- **Pillar 1:** Scale up swab testing in PHE labs and NHS hospitals for those with a medical need and the most critical workers to 25,000 a day by mid to late April;
- **Pillar 2:** Deliver increased commercial swab testing for critical key workers in the NHS, before then expanding to key workers in other sectors;
- **Pillar 3:** Develop blood testing to help know if people have the right antibodies and so have high levels of immunity to coronavirus;
- **Pillar 4:** Conduct surveillance testing to learn more about the spread of the disease and help develop new tests and treatments; and
- **Pillar 5:** Create a new UK national effort for testing, to build a mass-testing capacity at a completely new scale.

The Secretary of State also reported that over time, the plans will also see an increasing focus on testing to see if people have already had the virus, to identify if they have the antibodies that will give them immunity against catching it again. He emphasised that the science is new and developing, but the aim is for a successful test that can be rolled out at scale, that could allow critical workers - and then the wider population - to return to work and their daily lives.

Updated guidance was issued to local authorities confirming the government’s assessment that the expanded retail discount is not a state aid, and that local authorities should award relief to all eligible properties. The weblink to the updated document is at 1A.

An Excel spreadsheet showing the support grant funding it has allocated by government to each local authority in England is accessible through the weblink at 1B.

