



Briefing Note 30 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Friday 17th April 2020

A. Headline developments announced on Thursday 16th April 2020

Item		Source
A1	Foreign Secretary's speech at daily ministerial media briefing at 5pm	https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/foreign-secretarys-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-16-april-2020
A2	The Chancellor expands the government-backed loan scheme for all viable large businesses	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-expands-loan-scheme-for-large-businesses
A3	Essential work to replace unsafe cladding on high-rise buildings will continue during the COVID-19 crisis	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-pledge-to-continue-vital-building-safety-work-during-pandemic
A4	Council tax information letter to local authorities on the technical implementation of the £500 million hardship fund	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879764/32020
A5	Presentation slides and datasets used to support the ministerial media briefing on Thursday 16 th April 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-16-april-2020
A6	UK statistics: 13,729 dead (+861) 103,093 tested positive (+4,617)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public
A7	UK government COVID-19 data tracker	https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
A8	Office for National Statistics (ONS): data and analysis on COVID-19 in the UK and its effect on the economy and society	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases

B. Key Sources of Government Advice

Document	
B1	Glossary of terms used in government guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/glossary-of-terms
B2	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
B3	World Health Organisation https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019



B4	NHS health advice for everyone https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
B5	Mental health helplines https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/
B6	Essential travel guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance
B7	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/
B8	Collection of guidance for schools and other educational settings https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings
B9	Guidance for schools and local authorities on maintaining educational provision https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/
B10	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
B11	Guidance for employees, employers and businesses https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19
B12	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/
B13	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
B14	Guidance on vulnerable children and young people https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/
B15	Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing
B16	Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance
B17	Guidance for parents and carers - 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/



B18	Coronavirus Act 2020 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf
B19	Guidance on cyber security and home working https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working
B20	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/s
B21	Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) : Collection of Guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mhra-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19
B22	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
B23	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
B24	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
B25	Guidance for closing certain businesses – as at 27 March 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876535/270320_Revised_Guidance.pdf
B26	Guidance on how to help safely https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely
B27	Financial help for the self-employed https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals
B28	How to check if you’re covered under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme
B29	Collection of guidance for healthcare professionals and others https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance
B30	How employers can claim wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme



B31	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/
B32	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?
B33	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/
B34	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
B35	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
B36	Easy-read guide: staying at home https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876715/
B37	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
B38	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/
B39	Construction site operating procedures – version 3 (updated 14 April 2020) https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Site-Operating-Procedures-Version-3.pdf
B40	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
B41	Guidance for care of the deceased – for health professionals and other organisations https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/
B42	Guidance for local authorities for implementing grant funds – version 3 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877286/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-guidance-v3.pdf
B43	Closure of schools and other educational settings: guidance for parents and carers https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/



B44	<p>Guidance for businesses on grant funding schemes: Version 2 – 3rd April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878082/pdf</p>
B45	<p>Business Support – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)</p> <p>https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/faqs/</p>
B46	<p>Expanded retail discount 2020-2021: guidance to local authorities at 2 April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877758/Expanded_Retail_Discount_Guidance_02.04.20.pdf</p>
B47	<p>Grant funding allocations by local authority in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding?</p>
B48	<p>Admission and care of people in care homes: Version 1 -2nd April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877797/covid-19-care-homes-guidance.pdf</p>
B49	<p>Guidance on maintaining further education</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/</p>
B50	<p>Guidance for head teachers on awarding qualifications in summer 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878848/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_heads_of_centres.pdf</p>
B51	<p>Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers on educational grades in 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878869/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_09APR2020.pdf</p>
B52	<p>Summer 2020 results for vocational, technical and other qualifications</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879019/Summer_2020_results_for_vocational_technical_and_other_qualifications.pdf</p>
B53	<p>Project funding available for innovation: competition closes on 17th April 2020</p> <p>https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/583/overview</p>
B54	<p>Guidance for local authorities to support and protect vulnerable children</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/</p>
B55	<p>Coronavirus Status Checker - Online Survey</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-status-checker</p>
B56	<p>Government plans for scaling up testing programmes – issued 3rd April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878121/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-strategy.pdf</p>



B57	<p>Management of exposed healthcare workers and patients in hospitals</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/</p>
B58	<p>Call for evidence by parliamentary Women & Equalities Committee: ends 30 April 2020</p> <p>https://committees.parliament.uk/work/227/coronavirus-and-the-impact-on-people-with-protected-characteristics/</p>
B59	<p>Safety guidance for towpaths and waterways from the Canal and River Trust</p> <p>https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/coronavirus</p>
B60	<p>Postponement of elections</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878332/Coronavirus_COVID-19_-_letter_to_councils_about_local_authority_meetings_and_postponement_of_elections.pdf</p>
B61	<p>Procurement policy guidance to public bodies on payment of their suppliers</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0220-supplier-relief-due-to-covid-19</p>
B62	<p>Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessors</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response/</p>
B63	<p>Recruitment for Healthcare Support Workers at London NHS Nightingale Hospital</p> <p>https://www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk/en/Nightingale/Nightingale/Nightingale-London</p>
B64	<p>Funding to support schools with exceptional costs</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools/</p>
B65	<p>Free school meals guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/</p>
B66	<p>Guidance to local authorities in England on prioritising waste collections</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-to-local-authorities-on-prioritising-waste-collections/</p>
B67	<p>Prime Minister's letter to the nation</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876876/CCS155_CCS0320349160-003_PM_letter_to_nation_on_coronavirus_Accessible.pdf</p>
B68	<p>Coronavirus public information leaflet accompanying Prime Minister's letter</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877678/coronavirus-leaflet.pdf</p>



B69	<p>Coronavirus easy-read public information leaflet</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879412/coronavirus-leaflet-easy-read.pdf</p>
B70	<p>Guidance for those who provide unpaid care to family and friends</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/</p>
B71	<p>Increase to Working Tax Credits with effect from 6th April 2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increase-to-working-tax-credits-what-this-means</p>
B72	<p>Hospital discharge service requirements</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874213/COVID-19_hospital_discharge_service_requirements.pdf</p>
B73	<p>Guidance for health and social care staff caring for people lacking mental capacity</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878910/Emergency_MCA_DoLS_Guidance_COVID19.pdf</p>
B74	<p>Guidance for organisations with laboratory testing capability</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879087/Guidance_for_Laboratories_offering_support_for_COVID-19_testing_for_publication_2_.pdf</p>
B75	<p>Coronavirus Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hub</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe</p>
B76	<p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Plan (issued</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879117/Coronavirus_COVID-19_-_personal_protective_equipment_PPE_plan.pdf</p>
B77	<p>Support for victims of domestic abuse announced by Home Secretary 11th April 2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-outlines-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims</p>
B78	<p>‘Silent Solution’ system: contacting the police by mobile phone if you can’t speak</p> <p>https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/research-learning/Silent_solution_guide.pdf</p>
B79	<p>UK financial assistance to help reduce mass infections in developing countries</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus</p>
B80	<p>UK Government COVID-19 data tracker</p> <p>https://obr.uk/coronavirus-reference-scenario/</p>
B81	<p>Adult Social Care Action Plan (published 15th April 2020)</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879639/covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan.pdf</p>



B82	Ofqual consultation for 2020 exam grading: online response closes 29th April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020
B83	Government data sources and methodology for gathering transport use data https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-transport-data-methodology-note/

C. Commentary

The daily media briefing at 5pm was led by the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, who explained that whilst the social distancing and other related measures were beginning to make a positive impact, now is not the time to release any restrictions. To do so would unravel the good work achieved to date and cause more damage to the economy and public health. Evidence considered by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) was mixed and inconsistent, so all social distancing measures must remain in place for at least another three weeks. A weblink to the work of SAGE and related reports is at B10.

The Foreign Secretary explained that the government will need to be satisfied that five specific things have been met before it considers it safe to adjust any current measures. These are:

1. The ability of the NHS to cope must be protected - with the confidence that critical care and specialist treatment can continue right across the UK;
2. There must be a sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates, so experts are confident that the peak has passed;
3. There must be reliable data from SAGE showing that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels across the board;
4. There must be confidence that the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and personal protective equipment are in hand, with supply able to meet future demand; and
5. There must be confidence that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections that overwhelm the NHS – considered by the government to be a crucial condition.