



Briefing Note 31 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Saturday 18th April 2020

A. Headline developments announced on Friday 17th April 2020

	Item	Source
A1	Guidance for consumers on how to maintain food hygiene	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-consumers-on-coronavirus-covid-19-and-food/
A2	Seventeen more charter flights with a 4,000 capacity to bring stranded British citizens home from India (press release)	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/17-more-charter-flights-from-india-to-return-thousands-of-stranded-brits
A3	Guidance on coronavirus testing for frontline workers who are self-isolating	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested
A4	Guidance and questions answered about cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/
A5	An updated explanation about the type of financial support available for education, early years and children's social care organisations	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care/
A6	Step-by-step guidance for employers about the information employers need to provide to HMRC to make a claim under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the processes involved	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880092/Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme step by step guide for employers.pdf
A7	Letter to councils in England to ensure that all family members can attend funerals of their loved ones and that the wishes of the deceased are respected	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880093/Letter from Minister Simon Clarke.pdf
A8	Statutory guidance issued to local authorities in England explaining how powers under the Coronavirus Act 2020 will support local and national death management	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880047/Schedule 28 local death management guidance.pdf
A9	Business Secretary's statement at 5pm media briefing	https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/business-secretarys-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-17-april-2020
A10	Presentation slides and datasets used to support the ministerial media briefing on Friday 17 th April 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-17-april-2020
A11	UK statistics: 14,576 dead (+847) 103,093 tested positive (+5,599)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public



A12	UK government COVID-19 data tracker	https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
A13	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 on how to help safely https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely
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	<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>
B27	<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>
B28	<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>
B29	<p>Collection of guidance for healthcare professionals and others</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance</p>
B30	<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>
B31	<p>New interim safeguarding guidance for schools, colleges and other premises in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/</p>
B32	<p>Non-statutory renting guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?</p>
B33	<p>Online support and practical guidance for those suffering with mental health issues</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/</p>
B34	<p>Small Business Grant Fund & Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund – Version 3</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876893/small-business-grant-fund-retail-guidance-vers-3.pdf</p>
B35	<p>Easy-read guide: looking after your feelings and body</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876989/Easy_read_looking_after_your_feelings_and_body.pdf</p>
B36	<p>Easy-read guide: staying at home</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876715/</p>
B37	<p>Easy-read guide: keeping away from other people</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876699/COVID-19_Keeping_away_from_other_people_20200328.pdf</p>
B38	<p>Guidance for parents & carers on looking after mental health & wellbeing of children</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/</p>



B39	<p>Construction site operating procedures – version 3 (updated 14 April 2020)</p> <p>https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Site-Operating-Procedures-Version-3.pdf</p>
B40	<p>Changes to the Care Act 2014 allowing local authorities to prioritise care and support</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities</p>
B41	<p>Guidance for care of the deceased – for health professionals and other organisations</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/</p>
B42	<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>
B43	<p>Closure of schools and other educational settings: guidance for parents and carers</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/</p>
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 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>



B52	<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>
B53	<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>
B54	<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>
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>Free school meals guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/</p>



B65	<p>Funding to support schools with exceptional costs</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools/</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</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	Support for victims of domestic abuse announced by Home Secretary 11th April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-outlines-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims
B78	'Silent Solution' system: contacting the police by mobile phone if you can't speak https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/research-learning/Silent_solution_guide.pdf
B79	UK financial assistance to help reduce mass infections in developing countries https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus
B80	UK Government COVID-19 data tracker https://obr.uk/coronavirus-reference-scenario/
B81	Adult Social Care Action Plan (published 15th April 2020) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879639/covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan.pdf
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/
B84	Guidance for local authorities on implementing the £500 million hardship fund https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879764/32020

C. Commentary

A significant quantity of new and updated guidance was issued by the government yesterday and is referenced in section A. One important announcement was that access to testing for those with symptoms of COVID-19 will be extended across England to include additional frontline workers and symptomatic members of their household. A weblink is at A3.

A new step-by-step guide about the information employers need to provide to HMRC to make a claim under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the processes involved is at A6. The government's YouTube channel provides further information and is accessible here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/hmrcgovuk>. The scheme will open for online claims on Monday 20th 2020.

