



Briefing Note 37 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Friday 24th April 2020

A. Headline developments announced on Thursday 23rd April 2020

Item		Source
A1	All essential workers in England and members of their households are now be able to get tested if they show symptoms of COVID-19	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#arrange-a-test
A2	User guide for essential workers to book a test at a regional testing site or via home delivery (PDF document)	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/881043/covid-19-testing-self-referral-portal-user-guide.pdf
A3	Launch of new government study to track COVID-19 in general population in England (press release)	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-begins-large-scale-virus-infection-and-antibody-test-study
A4	Information for the bereaved: advice leaflet published	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880807/Bereavement-Leaflet-digital.pdf
A5	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approves Oxford University vaccine trial in 7 days	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-approves-covid-19-vaccine-trial-in-7-working-days
A6	New measures to protect UK high street from aggressive and unfair rent collection and closure	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-protect-uk-high-street-from-aggressive-rent-collection-and-closure
A7	How to help safely: easy-read guidance document published	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879411/how-to-help-safely-easy-read-lo-res_v3.pdf
A8	Rough sleepers: Letter to local authority homelessness managers and rough sleeping coordinators	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dame-louise-casey-writes-to-local-authority-homelessness-managers-and-rough-sleeping-coordinators/
A9	Presentation slides and datasets used to support the ministerial media briefing on Thursday 23 rd April 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-23-april-2020
A10	UK statistics: 18,738 dead (+616) 138,078 tested positive (+4,583)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public



A11	UK government COVID-19 data tracker	https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
A12	Office for National Statistics (ONS): Analysis of COVID-19 data and its effect on the UK 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	<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/</p>
B13	<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>
B14	<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/</p>
B15	<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>
B16	<p>Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance</p>
B17	<p>Guidance for parents and carers - supporting children & young people's mental health</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/</p>
B18	<p>Coronavirus Act 2020</p> <p>http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf</p>
B19	<p>Guidance on cyber security and home working</p> <p>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working</p>
B20	<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/s</p>
B21	<p>Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) : Collection of Guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mhra-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19</p>
B22	<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>
B23	<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>
B24	<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>
B25	<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>



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>Collection of guidance for healthcare professionals and others</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus</p>
B28	<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>
B29	<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>
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>Collection of 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>
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	Coronavirus Status Checker - Online Survey https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-status-checker
B53	Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers on educational grades in 2020 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
B54	Summer 2020 results for vocational, technical and other qualifications https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879019/Summer_2020_results_for_vocational_technical_and_other_qualifications.pdf
B55	Free school meals guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/
B56	Government plans for scaling up testing programmes – issued 3rd April 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878121/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-strategy.pdf
B57	Management of exposed healthcare workers and patients in hospitals https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/
B58	Call for evidence by parliamentary Women & Equalities Committee: ends 30 April 2020 https://committees.parliament.uk/work/227/coronavirus-and-the-impact-on-people-with-protected-characteristics/
B59	Safety guidance for towpaths and waterways from the Canal and River Trust https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/coronavirus
B60	Postponement of elections 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
B61	Procurement policy guidance to public bodies on payment of their suppliers https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0220-supplier-relief-due-to-covid-19
B62	Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessors https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response/
B63	Recruitment for Healthcare Support Workers at London NHS Nightingale Hospital https://www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk/en/Nightingale/Nightingale/Nightingale-London



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>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>
B66	<p>Guidance for those who provide unpaid care to family and friends</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/</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>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>
B71	<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>
B72	<p>Infection control stepdown precautions when discharging from hospital to home</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-stepdown-of-infection-control-precautions-within-hospitals-and-discharging-covid-19-patients-from-hospital-to-home-settings/</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	<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	<p>Ofqual consultation for 2020 exam grading: online response closes 29th April 2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020</p>
B83	<p>Government data sources and methodology for gathering transport use data</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-transport-data-methodology-note/</p>
B84	<p>Guidance for local authorities on implementing the £500 million hardship fund</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879764/32020</p>
B85	<p>Guidance for consumers on how to maintain food hygiene</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-consumers-on-coronavirus-covid-19-and-food/</p>
B86	<p>Guidance on COVID-19 testing for frontline workers who are self-isolating</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested</p>
B87	<p>Step-by-step guidance for employers about how to claim under Job Retention Scheme</p> <p>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</p>
B88	<p>Directions to councils in England to allow family members to attend funerals</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880093/Letter_from_Minister_Simon_Clarke.pdf</p>



B89	Statutory guidance to local authorities in England on local death management https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880047/Schedule_28_local_death_management_guidance.pdf
B90	Guidance for managing a funeral during the pandemic https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/
B91	Guidance for special schools managing children with complex needs (SEND) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/
B92	Launch of Oak National Academy – an online teaching resource for teachers https://www.thenational.academy/
B93	BBC Bitesize: Online support for students in primary and secondary schools https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
B94	Financial support for businesses: Headline terms for ‘Future Fund’ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880119/Convertible_Loan_Key_Terms_-_Final_Version_.pdf
B95	Online support tool for employers and the self-employed https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder
B96	Grant payments made to businesses by local authority area as at 20th April 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880286/200420_local_authority_grant_payments.csv/preview
B97	PPE export controls on UK companies trading internationally https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/
B98	Collection of guidance for those involved in managing deaths https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-those-involved-in-managing-covid-19-deaths/
B99	Guidance from the DVSA to driver and rider trainers in England, Scotland and Wales https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-letter-from-dvsa-chief-executive-to-driver-and-rider-trainers

C. Commentary

At the 5pm daily media briefing the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, announced new ‘Test-Track-Trace’ measures.

He explained about improved testing arrangements which were said to be ‘easier and faster’. Now all essential workers and their households in England who need a test will be able to get one.



From Friday 24th April, any essential workers who needs a test, will be able to book an appointment online and a weblink is at A1. A 37-page user guide for essential workers explaining how to book a test at a regional testing site or via home delivery is at A2.

The Health Secretary described the launch of a government study to track COVID-19 in the general population in England, calling it ‘... the biggest virus infection and antibody studies that this country has ever seen’. This is a joint project with the Office for National Statistics and the University of Oxford. In total, 25,000 people will take part in the first phase with plans to expand it to up to 300,000 people over the next 12 months.

The Health Secretary emphasised the importance of contact tracing as the new number of cases begins to fall and announced the hiring of an initial 18,000 people, including over 3,000 clinicians and public health specialists, to carry out this task. Training contact tracers will take place over the coming weeks.

Other measures announced during the day included rules to protect high street shops and other companies from aggressive rent collection. To stop these unfair practices, the government will temporarily ban the use of statutory demands and winding up orders where a company cannot pay their bills due to coronavirus, to ensure they do not fall into deeper financial strain. The measures will be included in the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill, which the Business Secretary Alok Sharma set out earlier this month.

The government is also to introduce regulations to provide tenants with more breathing space to pay rent by preventing landlords using Commercial Rent Arrears Recovery unless they are owed 90 days of unpaid rent.

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