# Briefing Note 49 - COVID-19 Guidance
## As at 09:00 Wednesday 6th May 2020

## A. Headline announcements on Tuesday 5th May 2020

| Item |
| --- |
| A1  **Scientific evidence supporting the UK government response** |
| A2  **Awarding qualifications in summer 2020: Ofqual update following consultation** |
| A3  **Attendance of children and teachers at educational settings since 23rd March 2020** |
| A4  **Advice to local authorities on prioritising waste collections** |
| A5  **Verification of deaths in times of emergency** |
| A6  **List of critical workers who can send their children to school** |
| A7  **Examples of remote education practice from schools and academies across England** |
| A8  **Foreign Secretary's statement at 5pm media briefing** |

## B. Data sources

| Sources of daily rolling data |
| --- |
| B1  **Slides and datasets used to support the daily ministerial media briefing** |
| B2  **UK statistics: (a) recorded deaths 29,427 (+693) (b) positive tests 194,990 (+4,406)** |
| B3  **UK government COVID-19 data tracker** |
| B4  **Office for National Statistics (ONS): analysis of COVID-19 data** |

## C. Commentary

The 5pm daily ministerial media briefing was led by the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, who reported that the number of recorded UK deaths due to COVID-19 had reached 29,427. This is the highest number of recorded deaths in Europe so far with the USA being the only other country to report more. There is a continuing debate over the varying methods used by countries to record mortality figures and true country-by-country comparisons may not be possible for some time.

The Foreign Secretary highlighted the growing international malicious cyber activity, referring to hostile state and non-state actors from other countries targeting medical facilities around the world. This follows a joint advisory notice issued (on 8th April 2020) by the UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the US's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security agency (CISA) exposing malicious cyber campaigns targeting international healthcare and medical research organisations involved in the coronavirus response.

The UK's NCSC has advised staff at healthcare and medical research organisations to change and strengthen passwords that could be easily guessed and implement two-factor authentication to reduce the threat of compromise.

The government published some of the scientific evidence reports produced by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) to inform the government's COVID-19 response. A link to these published reports is at A1.

Non-statutory guidance for local authorities and other waste collectors in England encourages them to prioritise waste collections and to manage household waste recycling centres safely. Many household waste recycling centres remain closed and there is growing evidence of 'fly-tipping' taking place.

A temporary standard operating procedure (SOP) has been issued to clarify existing practice for the verification of death outside of hospitals and to provide a framework for safe verification of death during the COVID-19 emergency.

The SOP applies to all cases of death when verification of death may be completed by people who have been trained to do so in line with their employer's policies, including medical practitioners, registered nurses or paramedics. It is also to be followed by other non-medical professionals, usually and normally independent of family members, who are verifying death using remote clinical support. This helps avoid long delays in waiting for verification before the deceased person can be moved when medical practitioners are unavailable.

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# Annex

## RESOURCES: UK government guidance and related advice

| REF | DOCUMENTS and OTHER SOURCES OF GUIDANCE | DATE ISSUED OR UPDATED |
|---|---|---|
| **Adult social care** | | |
| R1 | Home care provision | 06/04/2020 |
| R2 | Changes to Care Act 2014 allowing local authorities to prioritise care | 01/04/2020 |
| R3 | How to work safely in care homes | 27/04/2020 |
| **Business and other venues – directions to close** | | |
| R4 | Closing certain businesses and venues | 09/04/2020 |
| R5 | Designated power to issue fixed penalty notices by local authorities | 04/04/2020 |
| R6 | Guidance for closing certain businesses | 27/03/2020 |
| **Business support and employment** | | |
| R7 | Guidance for employees, employers and businesses | 07/04/2020 |
| R8 | Financial help for the self-employed | 26/03/2020 |
| R9 | Are you covered under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme? | 30/04/2020 |
| R10 | Claiming wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | 30/04/2020 |
| R11 | Grant funding scheme: guidance for local authorities – version 5 | 24/04/2020 |
| R12 | Business support – Frequently Asked Questions | Website |
| R13 | Guidance for businesses on grant funding schemes: Version 5 | 24/04/2020 |
| R14 | Expanded retail discount 2020-2021: guidance for local authorities | 02/04/2020 |
| R15 | Grant funding allocations by local authority in England | 24/04/2020 |
| R16 | Grant payments made to businesses by local authority area in England | 03/05/2020 |
| R17 | Procurement policy guidance to public bodies on payment of their suppliers | 17/04/2020 |
| R18 | Increase to Working Tax Credits with effect from 6th April 2020 | 07/04/2020 |
| R19 | Guidance for local authorities on implementing the hardship fund | March 2020 |
| R20 | Step-by-step guidance for employers on claiming under Job Retention Scheme | April 2020 |
| R21 | Financial support for businesses: Headline terms for 'Future Fund' | 19/04/2020 |
| R22 | Online support tool for employers and the self-employed | Website |
| R23 | Business Improvement Districts to receive £6.1 million funding | 01/05/2020 |

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| R24 | **Treasury Direction: Self-Employment Income Support Scheme arrangements** | 01/05/2020 |
| R25 | **Bounce Back Loan Scheme: Letter from Chancellor to accredited lenders** | 01/05/2020 |
| R26 | **Top-up discretionary business grant fund scheme for small businesses** | 02/05/2020 |
| R27 | **Tax credits customers to be paid even if working less hours** | 04/05/2020 |
| R28 | **How to apply for a Bounce Back Loan** | 04/05/2020 |

### Children and young people

| R29 | **Guidance on vulnerable children and young people** | 19/04/2020 |
| R30 | **Guidance for parents & carers on looking after mental health of children** | 21/04/2020 |
| R31 | **Guidance for local authorities to support and protect vulnerable children** | 03/04/2020 |

### Construction sites

| R32 | **Construction site operating procedures – version 3** | 14/04/2020 |

### Deaths and bereavement

| R33 | **Guidance for care of the deceased – for health professionals** | 20/04/2020 |
| R34 | **Directions to councils in England to allow family members to attend funerals** | 17/04/2020 |
| R35 | **Statutory guidance to local authorities in England on local death management** | April 2020 |
| R36 | **Guidance for managing a funeral during the pandemic** | 19/04/2020 |
| R37 | **Collection of guidance for those involved in managing deaths** | 21/04/2020 |
| R38 | **Information leaflet for the bereaved** | April 2020 |
| R39 | **Public Health England Data Series on Deaths in People with COVID-19** | 29/04/2020 |
| R40 | **New daily reporting for all deaths in England (press release)** | 29/04/2020 |
| R41 | **Chief Coroner's Note 34 – guidance for coroners** | 26/03/2020 |
| R42 | **Chief Coroner's Note 35 – hearings during the pandemic** | 27/03/2020 |
| R43 | **Chief Coroner's Note 36 – Coronavirus Act: provisions relevant to coroners** | 30/03/2020 |
| R44 | **Chief Coroner's Note 37  and possible exposure in the workplace** | 28/04/2020 |

### Education settings and vocational training

| R45 | **Collection of guidance for schools and other educational settings** | 04/05/2020 |
| R46 | **Information for parents and carers about schools & other educational settings** | 01/05/2020 |
| R47 | **Guidance for schools and councils on maintaining educational provision** | 19/04/2020 |
| R48 | **Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England** | 28/04/2020 |
| R49 | **Safeguarding guidance for schools, colleges and other premises in England** | 27/03/2020 |
| R50 | **Guidance on maintaining further education** | 24/04/2020 |
| R51 | **Guidance for head teachers on awarding qualifications in summer 2020** | April 2020 |

| R52 | **Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers on educational grades** | April 2020 |
| R53 | **Summer 2020 results for vocational, technical and other qualifications** | 30/04/2020 |
| R54 | **Free school meals guidance** | 30/04/2020 |
| R55 | **Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessors** | 24/04/2020 |
| R56 | **Funding to support schools with exceptional costs** | 07/04/2020 |
| R57 | **Cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels: Frequently Asked Questions** | 01/05/2020 |
| R58 | **Special schools managing children with complex needs (SEND)** | 19/04/2020 |
| R59 | **Induction for newly qualified teachers** | 01/05/2020 |
| R60 | **Actions for higher education providers and support for universities & students** | 04/05/2020 |
| R61 | **International travel advice for educational settings** | 05/05/2020 |
| R62 | **Oak National Academy – an online teaching resource for teachers** | Website |
| R63 | **BBC Bitesize: support for students in primary and secondary schools** | Website |
| | **Food hygiene** | |
| R64 | **Guidance for consumers on how to maintain food hygiene** | 25/04/2020 |
| | **Glossary of terms used in UK government guidance** | |
| R65 | **Glossary** | 27/04/2020 |
| | **Healthcare professionals and hospital settings** | |
| R66 | **Background information (epidemiology, virology and clinical features)** | 29/04/2020 |
| R67 | **Collection of guidance for healthcare professionals and others** | 27/04/2020 |
| R68 | **Management of exposed healthcare workers & patients in hospital** | 23/04/2020 |
| R69 | **Guidance for ambulance trusts** | 11/04/2020 |
| R70 | **Guidance for first responders** | 24/03/2020 |
| R71 | **Guidance for taking swab samples** | 23/04/2020 |
| R72 | **Infection prevention and control** | 27/04/2020 |
| R73 | **Healthcare support workers required at London NHS Nightingale Hospital** | Website |
| R74 | **Hospital discharge service requirements** | 19/03/2020 |
| R75 | **Infection control precautions when discharging from hospital to home** | 23/04/2020 |
| | **Homecare (domiciliary care)** | |
| R76 | **PPE for care workers delivering home care in England** | 30/04/2020 |
| R77 | **Putting on PPE for home carers** | 30/04/2020 |
| R78 | **Taking off PPE for home carers** | 30/04/2020 |

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| | International | |
|---|---|---|
| R79 | **Guidance for UK businesses trading internationally** | 24/04/2020 |
| R80 | **UK financial assistance to help reduce mass infections in developing countries** | 12/04/2020 |
| R81 | **PPE export control process for UK companies trading internationally** | 05/05/2020 |
| R82 | **How the FCO processes your data if you apply for an emergency loan abroad** | 26/06/2018 |
| | **Laboratories** | |
| R83 | **Guidance for organisations with laboratory testing capability** | 09/04/2020 |
| | **Laws and regulations** | |
| R84 | **Coronavirus Act 2020** | 25/03/2020 |
| R85 | **The Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020** | 10/02/2020 |
| R86 | **The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions)(England) Regulations 2020** | 26/03/2020 |
| R87 | **Domestic Abuse Bill** | 03/03/2020 |
| | **Local authorities** | |
| R88 | **Guidance to local authorities for controlling fraud** | March 2020 |
| R89 | **Guidance to local authorities in England on prioritising waste collections** | 07/04/2020 |
| R90 | **Postponement of elections** | 06/04/2020 |
| R91 | **Mitigating impacts on Gypsy and traveller Communities** | 01/05/2020 |
| | **Medicines and healthcare products** | |
| R92 | **Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) : collection** | 05/05/2020 |
| | **Mental health** | |
| R93 | **Mental health helplines** | March 2020 |
| R94 | **Support and practical guidance for those suffering with mental health issues** | 31/03/2020 |
| R95 | **Easy-read guide: looking after your feelings and body** | March 2020 |
| R96 | **Health and social care staff who care for people lacking mental capacity** | 09/04/2020 |
| | **Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR)** | |
| R97 | **Coronavirus analysis and implications for the UK economy** | 30/04/2020 |
| | **Personal protective equipment (PPE)** | |
| R98 | **PPE use for aerosol generating procedures** | 10/04/2020 |
| R99 | **PPE use for non-aerosol generating procedures** | 08/04/2020 |
| R100 | **Management of exposed healthcare workers and patients in hospitals** | 23/04/2020 |
| R101 | **Coronavirus Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hub** | 18/04/2020 |
| R102 | **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Plan** | 10/04/2020 |

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| R103 | VAT removed from PPE purchases for three months (press release) | 01/05/2020 |
|------|---|---|
| **Procurement policy guidance to public bodies** | | |
| R104 | Payment to suppliers of public bodies | 17/04/2020 |
| **Public information** | | |
| R105 | Coronavirus: action plan – A guide to what you can expect across the UK | 03/03/2020 |
| R106 | NHS health advice for everyone | March 2020 |
| R107 | Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection | 28/04/2020 |
| R108 | Call for evidence by parliamentary Women & Equalities Committee | 30/03/2020 |
| R109 | Prime Minister's letter to the nation | 23/03/2020 |
| R110 | Coronavirus public information leaflet | 23/03/2020 |
| R111 | Coronavirus easy-read public information leaflet | April 2020 |
| R112 | Frequently asked questions: what you can and cannot do | 01/05/2020 |
| R113 | Video explanation about the rate of infection value known as 'R' | 01/02/2020 |
| R114 | British Sign Language COVID-19 information accessible via SIGNHEALTH | Website |
| R115 | Emergency funding to support most vulnerable in society | 02/05/2020 |
| **Rapidly Manufactured Ventilator System Project** | | |
| R116 | Indemnities granted to manufacturers | April 2020 |
| **Renting and landlords** | | |
| R117 | Non-statutory renting guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities | 28/03/2020 |
| **Restoration of NHS services** | | |
| R118 | Fertility clinics to re-open from 11th May 2020 | 01/05/2020 |
| **Rough sleepers** | | |
| R119 | Dame Louise Casey to lead government specialist task force on rough sleeping | 02/05/2020 |
| **Scientific advice** | | |
| R120 | Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE): COVID-19 guidance | Website |
| R121 | Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) membership | 05/05/2020 |
| **Security** | | |
| R122 | Guidance on cyber security and home working | 02/04/2020 |
| R123 | 'Silent Solution' - contacting the police by mobile phone if you cannot speak | 07/04/2019 |
| R124 | Support for victims of domestic abuse announced by Home Secretary | 11/04/2020 |
| R125 | Directions given to the NHS to disclose cyber security information to GCHQ | 03/04/2020 |
| R126 | *Thinkuknow* programme to protect children when using devices online | Website |

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| | Staying at home and away from others (social distancing) | |
|---|---|---|
| R127 | **Staying at home and away from others (social distancing)** | 01/05/2020 |
| R128 | **Measures to protect people at higher risk from Coronavirus** | 17/04/2020 |
| R129 | **Easy-read guide on protecting extremely vulnerable people** | March 2020 |
| R130 | **How to help safely: guidance** | 23/04/2020 |
| | **Testing and vaccines** | |
| R131 | **Status Tracker: tell the NHS about your experience of coronavirus** | Website |
| R132 | **Government plans for scaling up testing programmes** | Website |
| R133 | **Guidance on COVID-19 testing for frontline workers who are self-isolating** | 03/04/2020 |
| R134 | **Testing arrangements for essential workers in England with symptoms** | 29/04/2020 |
| R135 | **Booking tests: User guide for essential workers in England with symptoms** | 29/04/2020 |
| R136 | **Mobile testing units to test frontline workers** | 29/04/2020 |
| R137 | **Drug trials could be fast-tracked through new clinical trial initiative** | 26/04/2020 |
| R138 | **Testing for coronavirus: privacy information** | 30/04/2020 |
| R139 | **Test, track and trace plan launched on the Isle of Wight** | 04/05/2020 |
| | **Transport and travel** | |
| R140 | **Guidance and advice to avoid non-essential travel in the UK** | 22/03/2020 |
| R141 | **Safety guidance for towpaths and waterways from the Canal and River Trust** | 22/03/2020 |
| R142 | **Government data sources and methodology for gathering transport use data** | Website |
| R143 | **Driver and rider trainers in England, Scotland and Wales – DVSA guidance** | 22/04/2020 |
| | **Trials and volunteers** | |
| R144 | **Volunteering for the National Health Service: Good Samaritan app** | Website |
| | **World Health Organisation** | |
| R145 | **World Health Organisation** | Website |
| | **VE Day 75th Anniversary: Friday 8th May 2020** | |
| R146 | **VE Day 75th Anniversary: Friday 8th May 2020: Royal British Legion Livestream** | 04/05/2020 |
| R147 | **VE Day 75th Anniversary toolkit for home and online commemorations** | 04/05/2020 |