



## Briefing Note 07 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### 1. **Headline developments announced on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Item		Source
A	Guidance on early years and childcare closures	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures</a>
B	Guidance for UK businesses trading internationally	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-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</a>
C	Stay at home guidance	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance</a>
D	Easy-read guide on protecting extremely vulnerable people – also known as ‘shielding’	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf</a>
E	Businesses to receive three-month extension to filing accounts with Companies House	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/companies-to-receive-3-month-extension-period-to-file-accounts-during-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/companies-to-receive-3-month-extension-period-to-file-accounts-during-covid-19</a>
F	<b>UK statistics:</b> 442 dead (+87) 8,077 tested positive (+1,427)	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public</a>

### 2. **Key Sources of Government Advice**

Document	
A	<b>Coronavirus: action plan – A guide to what you can expect across the UK</b> <a href="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">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</a>
B	<b>World Health Organisation advice</b> <a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019">https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019</a>
C	<b>NHS health advice</b> <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</a>
D	<b>Social distancing and protecting older people and vulnerable adults</b> <a href="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">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</a>

E	<p><b>Guidance on social distancing and for vulnerable people</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people</a></p>
F	<p><b>Guidance for schools and other educational settings</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings</a></p>
G	<p><b>Guidance for schools and local authorities on maintaining educational provision</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-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</a></p>
H	<p><b>Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE): COVID-19 guidance</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response">https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response</a></p>
I	<p><b>Guidance for employees, employers and businesses</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</a></p>
J	<p><b>Measures to protect people at higher risk from Coronavirus</b></p> <p><a href="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">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</a></p>
K	<p><b>Guidance on home care provision</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-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</a></p>
L	<p><b>Mental health helplines</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/</a></p>
M	<p><b>Guidance on children and young people under 25</b></p> <p><a href="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">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</a></p>
N	<p><b>Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing</a></p>
O	<p><b>Essential travel guidance</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance</a></p>
P	<p><b>Compliance advice for businesses and other venues directed to close</b></p> <p><a href="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">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</a></p>
Q	<p><b>Emergency measures for railways to ensure continuity of operations and ticket refunds</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-ensures-ticket-refunds-and-protects-services-for-passengers-with-rail-emergency-measures">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-ensures-ticket-refunds-and-protects-services-for-passengers-with-rail-emergency-measures</a></p>

### 3. Commentary

With the co-operation of all mobile phone operators, the government sent SMS texts for the first time to people across the UK to inform them of the new rules announced by the Prime Minister on 23 March 2020. The SMS message said:

**“GOV.UK CORONAVIRUS ALERT New rules in force now: you must stay at home. More info & exemptions at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.”**

The government confirmed a £500 million hardship fund will provide council tax relief for vulnerable households.

New guidance was issued for local authorities, early years settings and childminders about childcare provision.

Guidance for UK businesses trading internationally has been issued and business support helplines opened. A dedicated business support website has been set up at <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/> which contains information for businesses in England and links to information provided in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Business support helplines (not 24 hours) are:

- England 0300 456 3565
- Wales 0300 060 3000
- Scotland 0300 303 0660

Guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection has been updated in different languages and a YouTube video added: <https://youtu.be/RD6mEJbeJYw>

Businesses will be given an additional 3 months to file accounts with Companies House to help companies avoid penalties as they deal with the impact of COVID-19.

At the first ever E-press conference held at 10 Downing Street at 5.15 pm yesterday, Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that 250,000 NHS volunteers were needed to support the NHS. A volunteer support scheme is being set up urgently and details will be announced shortly. He also reported that 11,788 former NHS staff had agreed to return to work with a further 35,000 coming next week.

The Secretary of State also announced that a new temporary hospital called the ‘Nightingale Hospital’ will open next week with military support at the London ExCel Conference and Exhibition Centre, with two wards each capable of holding 2,000 COVID-19 patients.