

8 April 2020

National context

Government's daily press conference

The press conference was chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak.

The Government reported the latest coronavirus figures – 232,708 people have been tested, of whom 60,773 tested positive, 19,438 people have been admitted to hospital and there have been 7,097 deaths.

An update was provided on the Prime Minister's health. The Prime Minister remains in intensive care where his condition is improving.

The Government announced a £750million funding package for UK charities. £360million will be directly allocated by government departments to charities providing key services and supporting vulnerable people during the crisis. £370million will be allocated to small and medium sized charities, including through a grant to the National Lottery Community Fund.

Public donations to the National Emergencies Trust as part of the BBC's *Big Night In* fundraiser later this month, will be matched by the Government, with a minimum pledge of £20million.

The slides and datasets to accompany today's coronavirus press conference are available to [view online](#).

Providing unpaid care

The Department of Health and Social Care has issued guidance for those who [provide unpaid care](#) to friends or family. It builds on other guidance including the [stay at home guidance](#) and the [social distancing guidance](#).

Social distancing in the workplace

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy has published new [guidance on social distancing in the workplace](#) which contains tailored advice for different business situations.

Local government finance

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has launched a data collection exercise to assess the financial impact coronavirus has had on local authorities, both directly and indirectly. The Department aims to identify where the greatest pressures are and to assess likely future costs. Information has been sent chief finance officers and the deadline for responses is 15 April.

In anticipation of the potential disruption to relevant authorities caused by the spread of coronavirus, the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 [have been issued](#). These amend the 2015 Regulations to extend the deadlines for relevant authorities to publish and make available for public inspection, their annual accounts and supporting documents in relation to the financial year beginning on 1st April 2019.

Neighbourhood planning

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has updated the [neighbourhood planning guidance](#), adding paragraph 107 which sets out changes that have been introduced to neighbourhood planning in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Managing the deceased

Detailed [guidance](#) has been updated to provide advice to local planners on caring for the deceased during a pandemic. There is also guidance on cremation regulations and forms for [medical referees](#) and [funeral directors](#), as well as [guidance for doctors](#) completing medical certificates on cause of death.

[Guidance from the Chief Coroner](#) has been issued about the approach required during the outbreak and a [letter](#) from the General Register Office has been sent to registrars and registration authorities detailing modifications to the registration process as a result of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

Education

The [guidance for educational settings](#) and guidance on the [closure of educational settings](#) have been updated to include information about the Easter holidays and updated information about exams, resources and support.

The Department for Education has written to Directors of Children's Services to confirm that Primary National Offer Day should continue as expected on 16 April and admissions appeals should not go ahead at present. In recognition of the pressures on councils, the Department has decided to cancel the Pupil Place Planning National Offer Day Survey.

The Government has updated the [guidance on isolation](#) for residential educational settings.

Child benefit

HMRC has [announced](#) that parents can still claim Child Benefit without having to register their child's birth first.

Social housing

The Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) has [published](#) the questions that it will use to survey providers about operational risks during the coronavirus pandemic. RSH will use the information to help identify where there may be challenges that the sector or individual providers need regulatory support to meet.

Rail

The Minister of State for Transport, Chris Heaton-Harris, has written an [open letter](#) to the Rail Delivery Group asking the rail industry to continue to ensure that rail travel is accessible during the coronavirus outbreak following concerns from disability campaigners.

Airlines

The Government has [announced](#) that charges for air navigation services in European airspace will be deferred for up to 14 months. The measure aims to provide financial relief to airlines struggling as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Defence

A [£1million open call competition](#) has been launched by the [Defence and Security Accelerator](#) to fast-track innovation to aid the Armed Forces in the fight against coronavirus.

Probation

Public Health England has published [guidance for commissioners of health](#) and social care services about undertaking health and social care needs assessment of adults under probation service supervision in the community.

Tourism

Tourism Minister, Nigel Huddleston, has [launched](#) a new £1.3million emergency fund to support local tourism organisations throughout the coronavirus outbreak.

Local context

Support for vulnerable residents

The Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline - Hantshelp4vulnerable – continues to be promoted through all available channels, including the statutory communication which was sent to Hampshire residents yesterday, by the Leader of the County Council. The call centre is seeing a steady increase in daily contacts and will remain fully operational over the upcoming bank holiday weekend.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The County Council is working with local partners and national Government to ensure that much needed PPE gets to the right people as soon as possible. A Government delivery of PPE equipment was received into Hampshire today. Volunteer drivers and military personnel are among those supporting the distribution of supplies to priority areas.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum (HIOW LRF) has today circulated guidance titled, COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidance for Care Settings. The document identifies and unifies key PPE guidance enabling interpretation for care scenarios. Staff are strongly advised to use the PHE online guidance alongside this document to ensure compliance with the latest PHE advice.

Correction - 07.04.2020

Correction – Some details relating to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation’s new ‘We’re All Together’ Fund were incorrect in yesterday’s briefing. The item is repeated below, namely with the correct link information:

Support is available to help charities cope with additional pressures during the coronavirus pandemic, including the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation’s new ‘We’re All Together’ Fund supported by VIVID Homes. The £550,000 fund aims to help charities respond to and in time recover from the impact of coronavirus and grants are available online at www.hiwcf.com/grants. Those wishing to donate to the fund can do so via [the Virgin Money Giving page](#)

Additional links

- Hampshire County Council webpages on coronavirus (including links to press releases): <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>
- Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- NHS information on coronavirus: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>
- Guidance for local government: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>
- County Councils Network (CCN) coronavirus information pages: <https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/coronavirus-information-for-local-authorities/>
- Local Government Association (LGA) councillor guidance: <https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-councillor-guidance>

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