

Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) – Daily Briefing

For any enquiries relating to the daily briefing, please contact
COVID19CommsHub@cityoflondon.go.uk

Daily Mortality Figures (London)

Data Provided from NHS Statistics and are correct for deaths occurring on 16th April 2020. Please note that this data records the date the death occurred rather than the date the death was announced. Interpretation of the figures should consider the fact that totals by date of death, particularly for most recent days, are likely to be updated in line with future NHS releases <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

Recorded Hospital Deaths (Daily) (145)	Recorded Hospital Deaths (Cumulative) (3522)
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Key Government Messages

New Social Distancing Guidance

The government has updated its guidance on social distancing measures. Social distancing is working, but if we stop now, we risk increasing the spread of the virus. We are extending the rules by at least three weeks. The rules will not change until five tests have been met:

1. Evidence that the NHS can cope across the UK
2. A sustained fall in daily death rates
3. Evidence that the rate of infection is decreasing
4. Confidence that supplies of testing and PPE are able to meet demand
5. No risk of a second peak

HM Treasury

Extension of Government Furlough Scheme (17th April 2020)

The Government have announced its furlough scheme has been extended for a further month. The scheme, which allows firms to furlough employees with the government paying cash grants of 80% of their wages up to a maximum of £2,500, was originally open for three months and backdated from the 1st March to the end of May. It is now in operation until the end of June.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, said: “We’ve taken unprecedented action to support jobs and businesses through this period of uncertainty, including the UK-wide Job Retention Scheme. With the extension of the coronavirus lockdown measures yesterday, it is the right decision to extend the furlough scheme for a month to the end of June to provide clarity.”

ONS

New Data on Self-Employment & COVID-19 (17th April 2020)

The Office for National Statistics have released new data which highlights self-employment levels and the effectiveness of the self-Employment Income support scheme introduced by the Government. There are regional specific statistics relating to self-employment levels in London.

Read the full bulletin [here](#)

Partner Agencies Top-Line Messages

Mayor of London

Extension of Lockdown (17th April 2020)

“Yesterday I attended COBRA where it was confirmed that the UK’s social distancing measures will remain in place for at least another three weeks. That’s the right decision - to be guided by the science and continue supressing the spread of this virus and save lives. All Londoners should continue to stay at home unless absolutely necessary to protect our NHS and save lives – this remains absolutely essential.”

Use of Facemasks (17th April 2020)

“Yesterday I wrote to the transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, asking him urgently to update the Government advice to make the wearing of face coverings obligatory when using public transport in London.

These would not be medical masks (PPE) which should be reserved for medical and care workers, but reusable masks, scarves or face coverings which reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

I have repeatedly asked the government about this – for more than a week now and we can’t wait any longer to catch up with the rest of the world. Ministers need to change their national directives now.

Face coverings don’t necessarily stop individuals from getting COVID-19, but if everyone wears a face mask it could help slow the spread of this virus and keep key workers safe – including transport workers. This is consistent with the latest advice from the World Health Organization (WHO) and also public health experts here in the capital.”

Public Health England

Launch of New Covid-19 Mental Health Campaign (16th April 2020)

Public Health England's Every Mind Matters platform has launched new advice, focussed on looking after people's mental wellbeing during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

There are a range of new resources available that are designed specifically to help manage our mental wellbeing during coronavirus, include a tailored COVID-19 Mind Plan, COVID-19 specific content for individuals and their loved ones, and support for specific mental wellbeing issues such as anxiety, stress, low mood and trouble sleeping.

To help get this vital message out there, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are supporting Every Mind Matters and have narrated a new short film which is set to be broadcast across national TV channels from Monday 20th April.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said: "We have asked people to make unprecedented changes to their day-to-day lives as part of our national effort to respond to this global pandemic. Staying at home and not seeing friends and loved ones can take its toll and it is completely understandable to feel overwhelmed or anxious.

"It's vital that we all look after our mental health in these challenging times, so today we are launching new guidance on the NHS Every Mind Matters website which is tailored to help people deal with this outbreak through practical tips and advice.

Read more about the Every Mind Matters campaign [here](#)

Transport for London:

London Buses will 'Middle-Door' only Boarding (17th April 2020)

Buses in London will temporarily become middle-door only boarding from Monday 20 April as part of Transport for London's (TfL's) efforts to help combat coronavirus.

This change will further improve safety for bus drivers and critical workers as passengers will only be able to board using the centre doors of buses, enabling better social distancing while the city is fighting the virus.

During the period of these temporary arrangements where passengers enter through the middle-doors, they will not be required to touch in. Customers should not approach the card reader near the driver's cab.

Claire Mann, TfL's Director of Bus Operations, said: "Bus drivers are pivotal in ensuring critical workers like NHS staff and grocery workers can perform the vital roles they do during this national emergency.

“Their efforts are nothing short of heroic, and it is essential that we leave no stone unturned when looking to protect them. Extending middle-door only boarding across the bus network will add another layer of protection on top of the other robust safeguards in place.

Pete Kavanagh, Unite London and Eastern Regional Secretary said: “This is a very welcome move and we are very relieved that TfL is listening to Unite and its members. We have lost members of our bus family in recent days and we refuse to lose any more. Unite has been asking for central boarding as an essential safety measure during these times because bus workers are, understandably, fearful for their health. It is reassuring that the Mayor and TfL have listened and acted now to protect this workforce.

New Notification of TfL Fatalities (17th April 2020)

Webpage published with a message from the Transport Commissioner, which will regularly update the number of fatalities [here](#)