

Strategic Coordination Group SCG Daily Bulletin – 18 May 2020

Daily Mortality Figures – (London)

As of 1st May 2020, the SCG daily briefing now takes account of mortalities that do not have a positive test result, but where COVID-19 is documented as a direct or underlying cause of death, dated back to the 24th April.

Patients who have died in London hospitals and had tested positive for Covid-19 at time of death.

Recorded Hospital Deaths – Daily **10** Recorded Hospital Deaths – Cumulative **5782**

Patients who have died in London hospitals where there has been no COVID-19 positive test result, but where COVID-19 is documented as a direct or underlying cause of death on the death certification process.

Recorded Hospital Deaths – Daily **1** Recorded Hospital Deaths – Cumulative **128**

Key Messaging

Government update to Coronavirus symptoms

From today, all individuals should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough or fever or anosmia. Anosmia is the loss of or a change in your normal sense of smell. It can also affect your sense of taste as the two are closely linked.

Government update to testing ability

The Government have also today announced an expansion of the test and trace programme, that now confirms anyone over the age of 5 years old, that displays symptoms of COVID-19, is now eligible for a test.

More information on this announcement is scheduled to be published this evening, however updated testing guidance is now on the NHS England website.

The Government also continues to issue updated sectoral guidance in relation to the easing of the lockdown. For a full list of these government updates, please refer to the appendix.

Partner Agencies Messaging

Mayor of London

Transport Systems in London (18th May 2020)

Updated lines from the Mayor of London on the use of transport systems across London.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: "We are making real progress on our plans to build up transport services to where they were before the coronavirus pandemic.

Today TfL is running 85% of bus services, 75% of Tube services and 80% of London Overground and DLR services. The Circle line is now in operation and seven Tube stations have reopened. TfL have been working extremely closely with unions for many weeks now

on its plans to ramp up services to pre-COVID levels, but have been hampered by having a significant number of staff unable to work frontline staff off sick, self-isolating or shielding.

TfL is making it safer for people who have no alternative but to use public transport by introducing one-way systems and reminding people of the need to stay two metres apart. We are also making sure Londoners know which stations to avoid at what times to make it easier to plan journeys. Over the weekend hand sanitiser points were installed at around 600 locations across the network, with a further 350 points being installed in the next fortnight.

However even when services are running at the highest possible frequency, the need to maintain safe social distancing will dramatically reduce capacity on the Tube to just 13-15%. So, I must urge all Londoners to only use public transport if you have no alternative and to walk or cycle for any essential journeys if you possibly can. You should continue to work from home if you are able to do so.

This morning the Congestion Charge and ULEZ were reintroduced to combat rising traffic levels and stop air pollution worsening. We must prevent a car-based recovery as even if only a small percentage of journeys are shifted to car our roads would immediately become unusably blocked and toxic air pollution would soar. We simply cannot allow one public health crisis to be replaced with another – and we need to ensure emergency vehicles can move around our streets easily as we continue to fight this virus. It's worth remembering that the Congestion Charge zone is about 1 per cent of Greater London – we are talking about a tiny area of our city.”

Homelessness Fund (18th May 2020)

Today the Mayor has relaunched the £40m Homelessness Change fund. Providers of homeless hostels and refuges can now bid for funds to make their facilities COVID-19 safe.

Many hostels rely on shared and communal facilities which make self-isolating and social distancing hard. These funds can be used to remodel and redesign existing hostels to slow the spread of the virus between people who are homeless.

Transport for London

Transport Service Levels (18th May 2020)

Transport for London (TfL) will from Monday 18th May, as previously agreed with the Government before the announcement of the lockdown restrictions being lifted, step up public transport service levels to make journeys as safe as possible for people who have no alternative other than to use public transport as national restrictions on movement are carefully and gradually lifted.

The clear advice from the Government and the Mayor is that Londoners should continue to work from home if they can do so. People who cannot work from home are asked to walk or cycle using the existing and extensive new cycling lanes and widened pavements. Londoners should avoid public transport wherever possible.

Statement on Concession Travel (18th May 2020)

“We are still finalising the details around temporary changes to the Freedom Pass, 60+ Oyster card and children’s travel in London, as required by the Government as part of the funding deal agreed last week. Once these are agreed we will be fully communicating them to customers before they are implemented. We will be abiding by all statutory requirements and our policy of taking care of vulnerable customers.”

London Councils

Updated Lines on Walking & Cycling in London (18th May 2020)

London Councils has issued updated lines on walking and cycling across London as lockdown restrictions ease.

“Due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, London boroughs are seeing clear improvements to air quality and traffic levels as fewer people use cars and increasingly make the switch to other forms of travel - such as walking and cycling.

We want to do everything we can to help Londoners sustain this move to cleaner and greener transport as lockdown restrictions ease. Nobody wants to see worsening air pollution and traffic congestion in the capital. London’s boroughs have long been champions of walking and cycling - with many responding to the coronavirus pandemic by introducing emergency measures to support people walking and cycling for essential journeys.

We are urging Londoners who need to travel right now to use cleaner, greener forms of transport such as walking and cycling as their first choice. Cars should only be used where there is no viable alternative, given the walking and cycling infrastructure we have in the capital and the health and environmental benefits of active travel.”

Public Health England

Heathrow Airport Trial (18th May 2020)

Public Health England are working with Heathrow Airport on a limited trial of temperature screening.

A spokesperson for Public Health England said: “PHE has offered to work with London Heathrow airport to help design and evaluate a limited trial of temperature screening to help clarify the evidence for it in a UK setting. This will help to inform the UK response going forward. The UK has not introduced temperature checks at airports as they hold little clinical value as advised by the Government’s expert advisory committee, SAGE. Expert advice is that clinical entry screening would detect a very small number of cases.”

London Air Ambulance

New Social Media Campaign (18th May 2020)

The London Air Ambulance Service has launched a new series of videos on social media highlighting the work of individuals within the organisation.

Government Announcements

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Re-opening Recycling Centres (18th May 2020)

The government has published new guidance on how recycling centres can be safely re-opened during the coronavirus outbreak.

Department for Culture Media and Sport

New Broadcaster Guidelines Issued (18th May 2020)

The Government has welcomed new guidance that sets out steps for a safe return to television production. The guidance, produced in collaboration between broadcasters, industry experts and safety consultants, builds on the government's publication of its COVID-19 recovery strategy earlier this week.

Department for Health & Social Care

Infection Control Fund (18th May 2020)

The Government have announced a new Infection Control Fund has been introduced to tackle the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in care homes.

Appendix – Full Government Guidance Documents

As a result of the Prime Minister's broadcast this week (10.5.20), the government has produced a series of new guidance documents regarding the easing of the lockdown:

The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy & FAQ's

The Government's roadmap for how and when the UK will adjust its response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Frequently asked questions on what you can and can't do during the coronavirus outbreak.

Specific Guidance Documents

The Government has updated its guidance/advice across a range of specific sectors, see below for updated guidance on:

Use of Open & Green Spaces (13th May 2020)

Moving Home during COVID-19 (13th May 2020)

Transport Systems (12th May 2020)

Education Settings (11th May 2020)

Workplace Safety (11th May 2020)

Use of Face Coverings (11th May 2020)

Staying Safe Outside Your Home (11th May 2020)