

## **Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) – Daily Briefing**

**For any enquiries relating to the daily briefing, please contact**  
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### **Daily Mortality Figures (London)**

*Data Provided from NHS Statistics and are correct for deaths occurring on 17<sup>th</sup> 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/>*

<b>Recorded Hospital Deaths (Daily)</b> <b>(221)</b>	<b>Recorded Hospital Deaths (Cumulative)</b> <b>(3743)</b>
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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

#### **MHCLG announcement**

**Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick made a statement on the Government's response to COVID-19 at Number 10 Downing Street (18<sup>th</sup> April 2020)**

**Colleagues may be interested in his remarks on parks:**

"There have been examples of some parks around the country closing.

"This cannot be right.

"While the virus does not discriminate, we know that the lockdown is much harder for people who don't have a lot of living space, who don't have a garden, and who don't have anywhere for their children to run around.

"People need parks.

*This Document is produced by the COVID-19 Communications Hub. The response to any major incident in London is coordinated by the Strategic Coordination Group, which is part of the London Resilience Forum.*

“That’s why I have made it clear to councils that all parks must remain open.

“For the health of the nation, people should be able to safely enjoy fresh air and green space.

“And, for the health of the nation, people must abide by social distancing rules and not congregate in groups in parks.”

Link to full transcript [here](#)

**During his statement, the Communities Secretary also made an announcement on additional funding to Councils in England**

Councils across England will receive another £1.6 billion in additional funding as they continue to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

This extra £1.6 billion takes the total given to councils to help their communities through this crisis to over £3.2 billion, an unprecedented level of additional financial support in recent times.

The funding will mean councils can continue to provide essential services and support to those who need it most. This includes getting rough sleepers off the street, supporting new shielding programmes for clinically extremely vulnerable people and assistance for our heroic public health workforce and fire and rescue services. The funding will also mean councils can provide vital services including adult social care and children’s services.

Link to full press release [here](#)

**Strategic Coordination Group**

**London’s SCG releases COVID-19 Funeral Standards (Under embargo for 0001, Sunday 19 April 2020)**

In support of recently published Government guidance, London’s Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) has today [19 April] released a set of Funeral Standards to provide clarity and reassurance to families facing the burial or cremation of a loved one during the current pandemic.

The Standards, which were developed by the Faith and Belief Cell of the SCG for Londoners of all faiths, beliefs and none, respond to the need for families to not delay funerals after someone has died whilst being able to shape some aspects of how they say goodbye. They offer a set of criteria to apply in all circumstances wherever public safety and operational capacity allow.

Funerals in London will remain as normal as possible for as long as possible while observing social distancing regulations and the Standards may evolve according to need as the pandemic continues.

**The Venerable Luke Miller, The Archdeacon of London and Chair of the Strategic Coordination Group’s Faith Cell, said:** “The Funeral Standards grew from the need to mark the end of a loved one’s life with dignity, compassion and respect coupled with the requirement to minimise the spread of infection and to save lives.

“They set out that even funerals without congregation should have a celebrant or minister in accordance with the faith or belief of the one who has died.

“No one should journey alone.”

## **ONS**

### **New Data on Self-Employment & COVID-19 (17<sup>th</sup> 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 (17<sup>th</sup> 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 suppressing 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 (17<sup>th</sup> 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.”

## **Transport for London:**

### **London Buses will 'Middle-Door' only Boarding (17<sup>th</sup> 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 (17<sup>th</sup> April 2020)**

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