

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 19th 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) (81)	Recorded Hospital Deaths (Cumulative) (3906)
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Key Government Messages

New Social Distancing Guidance

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

Job Retention Scheme Launched (20th April 2020)

The Government has today launched the Job Retention Scheme which will allow businesses to claim up to £2,500 a month towards staff wages. Read more about the launch of the scheme [here](#)

New Support Package for Innovative Firms (20th April 2020)

UK businesses driving innovation and development will be helped through the coronavirus outbreak with a £1.25 billion government support package, the Chancellor announced today. Read more on this announcement [here](#)

This Evening's Downing Street Press Conference will be led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak

Partner Agencies Top-Line Messages

Mayor of London

Pay it Forward Campaign (20th April 2020)

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, is urging Londoners to buy goods and services in advance from small businesses to help them stay afloat during the necessary restrictions to fight the spread of coronavirus.

He has launched a new crowdfunding initiative – called Pay It Forward London – aimed at helping Londoners support businesses which are currently struggling, in industries including hospitality, retail and leisure.

Pay It Forward London is part of a wider package of help the Mayor is offering to small businesses, including the London Growth Hub which is delivering tailored one-to-one advice to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) during the outbreak.

Sadiq has also agreed to invest an additional £1 million into extending business support over the coming 12 months to help companies through the current crisis and period of recovery which will follow.

The scheme lets Londoners pay for products or services which will be delivered once businesses return to normal or near-normal operation.

Full press release [here](#)

BAME Victims of COVID-19 (20th April 2020)

Sadiq Khan has written today regarding the disproportionate impact COVID-19 is having on Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities.

Read the full article [here](#)

SCG Funeral Guidance

The Strategic Coordination Group has launched new London Funeral Guidance (19th 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.

If you would like further information regarding this guidance, please contact the [SCG Communications Hub](#)

NHS London

First Patients Released from Nightingale Hospital (20th April 2020)

Staff at the NHS Nightingale hospital in London have successfully treated and discharged their first coronavirus patients.

A father of one, in his fifties, Simon Chung, who is recovering from Covid-19 after expert care on a ventilator, will now be transferred for 'step-down' care at Northwick Park hospital in Harrow to continue his recovery. A second man has also been discharged.

The London Nightingale is one of a network of seven sites providing surge capacity across England as the health service responds to the greatest global health emergency in more than a century.

These successful measures mean hospitals still have staff, beds and equipment available to deal with Covid-19, but the Nightingales provide an extra reserve of capacity if required.

NHS Chief Executive Sir Simon Stevens said: "It is great news that the first patients have been discharged after successful treatment from world-leading NHS staff.

"The Nightingale London may have been built in a matter of days in response to this unprecedented global health emergency but there are excellent facilities and, of course, the staff working there are every bit as skilled and dedicated as those caring for patients at other NHS hospitals."

London Ambulance Service

London Ambulance Service COVID-19 Update (20th April 2020)

"We have seen unprecedented levels of demand as a result of Covid-19, and we are meeting this challenge by forging new partnerships with key organisations such as the AA to rapidly scale up our capabilities and to provide greater resilience for our Service.

"We are extremely grateful for the support of the AA for providing 180 members of staff who are enabling us to put more ambulances out on the road as well as maintain our existing fleet to ensure we can keep caring for all Londoners who need our help."

“It’s good news that the number of cases is down in London, and that is reflected in our numbers. What we’ve got to remember is the lockdown was about slowing the spread of the virus — it won’t in itself eliminate it.

“What we have got to do is make sure we are able to cope with the demand that is placed on us as we come out of lockdown and as society returns to a more normal way of life — when we can expect the virus to still be present.”

Transport for London

Latest Ridership Figures (20th April 2020)

Andy Lord, Managing Director of the London Underground, said: “We continue to run a core Tube service so essential journeys can be made as the city fights coronavirus. Around a third of our own staff have themselves been ill or have had to self-isolate, so we are simply not able to run a full service. Our clear message to Londoners is not to travel, but for any absolutely essential journeys to be made later in the day, if possible. The network is for essential travel only and this has reduced journeys on the Tube by 95 per cent. The majority of people are playing their part and we need people to continue to not travel, to stay at home and to save lives.”

Furloughing of Staff (20th April 2020)

Update on TfL’s staffing arrangements during the COVID-19 outbreak

Mike Brown MVO, London’s Transport Commissioner, said: “I’m incredibly proud of our colleagues’ commitment and determination to run the transport network to serve the NHS and other Londoners making absolutely essential journeys. Londoners have listened to the advice of the Mayor and the Government and are staying at home to help reduce the spread of the virus. This is evidenced by the huge reduction in people using our network, which is helping to save lives.

We are having constructive conversations with the Government about the support that we need so that we can continue to serve the city effectively. Where appropriate we intend to use the Government’s Job Retention Scheme that is designed to support staff whose work has been paused because of the virus. This will mean that we can carry on the vital work that needs to be done during the pandemic and support the national effort to beat it.”

City of London Police

New Fraud Figures (20th April 2020)

Total reports to Action Fraud = 886 Total losses = £2,207,213 Total reports of phishing to Action Fraud = 3,732 (Figures as of Thursday 16th April 2020)

COVID-19 related fraud makes up 3-5% of all fraud reports received to Action Fraud at the moment.