

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 24th April. 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) (116)	Recorded Hospital Deaths (Cumulative) (4542)
---	---

Stay At Home This Weekend

The SCG are reminding all partners to continue to push key messaging to encourage the public to stay at home this weekend. It is vital that the public are following government advice:

1. Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you can not work from home)
2. If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
3. Wash your hands as soon as you get home
4. Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Ramadan Messaging

The government are encouraging all partners to promote stay at home messaging throughout Ramadan.

The Coronavirus pandemic has meant many Muslims in the UK and around the world are not able to mark Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr in the way they would normally do. The government has been clear that all places of worship should remain closed at this time and, unfortunately, this means that mosques in the UK will not be able to open for worship during this period.

Public Health England have now provided new resources to encourage the use of Stay at Home messaging, these can be accessed and shared [here](#).

Public Health England have also put together a blog post on Ramadan guidance [here](#).

Partner Agencies Top-Line Messages

NHS London and Mayor of London

Mayor of London interview with Professor Richard Schilling (25th April)

[A 5-minute video clip](#) was tweeted by NHS London (@NHSEnglandLDN) of Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, interviewing the deputy clinical director at NHS Nightingale London, Dr Richard Schilling.

In summary, the clip discusses:

- How Dr Schilling helped to set up the ICU at Nightingale London, and the long hours needed by both him and his colleagues
- How Londoners can continue their support for the NHS through staying at home and clapping for carers
- The morale and diversity of Dr Schilling's team, and how they're rising to the challenge
- The clip ends with Dr Schilling reiterating the difference Londoners can make in the fight against the virus by staying at home

TfL Finances (24th April 2020)

Reacting to the decision by Transport for London to place 7000 staff on furlough to safeguard essential travel services:

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan said: "I'm incredibly proud of the commitment and determination of our transport workers to serve the NHS and other Londoners making essential journeys.

Londoners have listened to our advice and are staying at home to help reduce the spread of the virus. But as the overwhelming majority of TfL's operational costs are funded through fares and this income has been reduced by 90%, it is putting huge pressure on TfL's finances.

TfL will be furloughing 7,000 staff whose work has been reduced or paused as a result of the coronavirus pandemic on furlough from Monday. This will save TfL £15.8m every four weeks, helping it to safeguard vital transport services and support London through the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

I would like to reassure TfL employees who are furloughed that they will remain a TfL employee and receive full pay. The Government scheme pays 80 per cent of the salary of furloughed staff up to a maximum of £2,500 per month and TfL will pay the remainder, as well as their pension contribution. TfL are continuing to have constructive conversations with the Government about the support that TfL needs so that it can continue to serve the city effectively."

Metropolitan Police Service

Domestic Abuse (24th April 2020)

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is urging victims of domestic abuse, and people who suspect that friends and family members might be suffering at the hands of an abusive partner while COVID-19 restrictions are in place, to speak out.

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.

Across London, the MPS is continuing to prioritise and respond to domestic abuse calls and are working closely with a range of partners to ensure victims receive the support and service they need.

Commander Sue Williams, the Met's lead for safeguarding, said: "The COVID-19 restrictions and "stay at home" instruction is vital to managing this public health crisis, but unfortunately it has also left current and potential victims of domestic abuse even more vulnerable and isolated.

"I want to stress that the Met is still here for Londoners -no-one who is experiencing domestic abuse should feel that they have to suffer in silence."

Transport for London

TfL Furloughing Staff (24th April 2020)

London's Transport Commissioner, Mike Brown, MVO said: "The transport network is crucial in the fight to tackle coronavirus and it will play a similarly vital role in supporting the country's economy as it recovers from the pandemic.

We have significantly cut our costs over recent years but nevertheless the success of encouraging the vast majority of people to stay at home has seen our main revenue, fares, reduce by 90%.

We are now taking steps to use the Government's Job Retention Scheme to further reduce our costs where work has been paused because of the virus, while at the same time supporting our staff financially. Our work with the Government about the support that we need are ongoing and are constructive."

For more information on this announcement, click [here](#).

Testing Eligibility (24th April 2020)

An updated TfL statement on the government's expansion of eligibility criteria for COVID-19 tests:

Lilli Matson Chief Health, Safety and Environment Officer at TfL said: "Transport staff are performing a tremendous task in responding to the national emergency, ensuring vital transport links can be kept open so that doctors, nurses and other Londoners making essential journeys can get to where they need to.

"The health and wellbeing of our people and our customers is our top priority, and we are working hard to support everyone to stay safe, while protecting themselves and others. Testing is an important part of this, and the Department of Health and Social Care has now announced coronavirus testing is open to all essential workers, including transport workers.

Following discussions with the Department for Transport about how our staff can have access to testing, we are now encouraging the take-up of testing by all eligible members of staff."

Ridership Update (24th April 2020)

Levels in London this week are broadly as they were last week. The latest analysis we have shown that road traffic is generally down around 40% compared to last year, but there are naturally fluctuations at certain locations and at peak times where it may be busier or quieter.

On Tube and buses, ridership is still down 95 per cent and 85 per cent respectively compared to the same time last year.

SCG wide

Mental Health Support (24th April 2020)

The Strategic Coordination Group are reminding Londoners to take care of their mental health as the COVID-19 lockdown continues to disrupt daily life.

Research by the Greater London Authority shows that nearly a third of Londoners feel more lonely since the outbreak and data from the ONS reveals that over four in five adults (84%) are worried about the effect that the coronavirus is having on their life.

Londoners are being signposted to online mental health resources available through the NHS-approved digital wellbeing service, Good Thinking, and the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Eleanor Kelly, Deputy Chair of London's Strategic Coordination Group, said: "These are hugely challenging times for Londoners. So, it's vitally important that people are aware of the resources offered by Good Thinking and the GLA to help them look after their mental health. By thinking and talking more about our mental health, we will help each other to get through this crisis."

Please read and share the resources provided by Good Thinking [here](#).

London Councils

Updated Lines on Lorry Control Scheme (24th April 2020)

"London Councils has extended the suspension of enforcement of the London Lorry Control Scheme until 31st May 2020, providing lorry operators with greater flexibility as they keep London's essential shops and services supplied throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

London Councils will keep this under review and will consider extending the suspension if necessary. Lorry drivers are still encouraged to use London Lorry Control Scheme routes wherever possible to minimise noise and disruption in residential areas."

Key Government Messages

This Evening's Downing Street Press Conference will be led by the Home Secretary, Priti Patel.

New Testing Eligibility

On Thursday (23rd April), the government announced that all essential workers in England, and members of their households who are showing symptoms of coronavirus will now be able to get tested.

This will mean individuals and people they live with will have the reassurance of knowing whether their symptoms are caused by coronavirus and can decide whether they are well enough to return to work.

A new campaign will help essential workers in England -including NHS and care staff, teachers, hospital cleaners, public servants, the emergency services, supermarket staff, delivery drivers, and other critical infrastructure staff -to access testing. These tests can now also be booked online.

For the latest information on testing and how employers can ensure staff within their organisations are able to get tested, please refer to government guidance [here](#).

For a wider list of who is eligible to be tested, see [here](#).

Department for Transport

New Support deal for Freight& Light Train Travel (24th April 2020)

Vital routes for supplies and people have been protected today (24 April 2020) through a coronavirus support package to keep the flow of goods and services running smoothly in and out of the UK, and around the country, throughout the pandemic.

Read in more detail the support measures for the freight and light rail industry [here](#).

Public Health England

New Surveillance Report (23rd April 2020)

PHE are now collating new surveillance reports which contain findings from systems within community, primary, secondary and mortality surveillance. It also includes an international update.

These reports are technical documents and can be read [here](#).

Guidance for those Managing COVID-19 Deaths (21st April 2020)

Central Government has issued guidance to support employers and workers handling loss of life. Read the latest collated guidance [here](#).

Department for Education

New Social Care Funding (24th April 2020)

The government have announced a support package of £12m to keep children at risk of neglect or abuse safe during the Coronavirus outbreak. The measures will cover support for adolescent exploitation, domestic abuse support, children in care and mental health support.

Read more on this announcement [here](#).

Department for Health and Social Care

Launch of NSHX Techforce19 (24th April 2020)

Today, NSHX, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have announced 18 innovative digital solutions being awarded up to £25,000 under the TechForce19 challenge.

The funding for each project will be used to develop new ways to support vulnerable people who need to stay at home or need other help in the community for extended periods of time.

Read more [here](#).