

## 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 April 25th, 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) (64)	Recorded Hospital Deaths (Cumulative) (4,606)
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### Key Government Messages

This evening's Downing Street Press Conference will be led by George Eustice, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

### **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 cannot 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**

The government is 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 has now provided new resources to encourage the use of 'Stay at Home' messaging, these can be accessed and shared [here](#).

## **DHSC**

### **Mobile coronavirus testing units to target frontline workers (April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**

Mobile testing units, operated by the Armed Forces, will travel around the UK to increase access to coronavirus testing.

Essential workers and the most vulnerable will receive increased access to coronavirus tests after the government unveiled a network of mobile testing units to travel where there is significant demand, including care homes, police stations and prisons.

Mobile facilities can be set up in under 20 minutes, allowing the testing of hundreds of people each day and are now travelling to those most in need and hard to reach. Specially trained Armed Forces personnel will collect swabs at the mobile sites, before they are sent to mega-labs for processing. Those tested will receive results within 48 hours.

Testing Minister Lord Bethell said:

*“Everyone who needs a coronavirus test should be able to have access to one. New mobile testing units will travel the country to provide vital frontline workers with tests so those testing negative to safely return to work.”*

*“We have built up capacity in the system with new testing facilities backed by Britain’s world-class scientists and industry partners. This means more workers can know if they have coronavirus if they have been demonstrating symptoms.”*

*“Testing is key in our battle against coronavirus. We now have the ability to provide more people with the certainty they need to get back to the front line when it is safe to do so.”*

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

*“Our Armed Forces will help deliver testing to where it’s most needed, using a network of up to 96 mobile units that will be rolled out in the coming weeks. They will make sure our care sector get the testing required to remain in the frontline of the fight against this pandemic.”*

National Testing Coordinator John Newton said:

*“Across the country we are creating new infrastructure to rapidly increase our capacity to test for coronavirus. New mobile testing units will help us achieve our goal of 100,000 coronavirus tests a day, providing tests to vital frontline workers wherever they need them.”*

*“In a matter of weeks we have worked with Britain’s leading scientists, academics and industry partners to build scores of new testing facilities and Britain’s largest network of diagnostic labs in history. Each day we are delivering more coronavirus tests, and allowing more frontline staff testing negative for the virus to safely return to work.”*

### **Partner Agencies Top-Line Messages**

#### **SCG, Mayor of London and Federation of Small Businesses**

**Mayor of London and business leaders urge companies in the capital to take up financial help available during coronavirus (Covid-19) (Embargoed press release: April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**

Tens of thousands of businesses in London are thought to be eligible for Government help in the form of loans, grants and guarantees. Changes to the schemes since they launched at the beginning of April have helped banks to speed up the approval of loans for the smallest businesses.

However, many businesses are still unsure of how to make the most of the financial help available.

In response, the [London Growth Hub](#) has launched a new online portal to guide businesses and employers on how to manage and mitigate their exposure to Covid-19.

A tool kit for partners to share information about the London Growth Hub is also available.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said:

*“The economic impact of the restrictions brought in to tackle Covid-19 will be far-reaching and long-lasting. I know many business owners are facing an acute cashflow crisis, as well as fears about the long-term impact of the lockdown. I urge businesses of all sizes and sectors to visit the London Growth Hub to explore the range of support available, and to take up all the financial assistance on offer from the Government to help them stay afloat during these unprecedented times.”*

Federation of Small Businesses London regional chair Michael Lassman said:

*“Now, more than ever, small businesses need to access the support that is available to them. If a business is yet to apply for that grant that is owed to them from the various ‘Government Covid-19 funding pots’ we urge them to do it now. Bank finance in the form of the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) is available and we have fought to make this less restrictive in terms of criteria for lending – so that avenue is available too. Cash flow is critical at this time so it is vital not to miss out on the funding available.”*

## **London Councils**

### **Londoners warned over scams from ‘coronavirus crooks’ (Embargoed press release: April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**

Londoners are being warned to remain vigilant for unscrupulous criminals exploiting fears about Covid-19 with moneymaking scams. Boroughs are asking the public to continue looking out for scammers targeting older and vulnerable people who are isolated from their family and friends.

Scams include:

#### **Fake and counterfeit goods**

- Criminals targeting care homes and others taking money for fake or non-existent Covid-19 test kits. The only real source of Covid-19 tests remains the NHS.
- Fake sanitisers, face masks and Covid-19 swabbing kits sold online and door-to-door. These products can often be dangerous and unsafe. There are reports of some potentially harmful hand sanitiser containing glutaral (or glutaraldehyde), which was banned for human use in 2014.

#### **Doorstep crime**

- Criminals targeting older people on their doorstep and offering to do their shopping. Thieves take the money and do not return

- Doorstep cleansing services that offer to clean drives and doorways to kill bacteria and help prevent the spread of the virus.

**Online scams**

- Email scams that trick people into opening malicious attachments, which put people at risk of identity theft with personal information, passwords, contacts and bank details at risk. Some of these emails have lured people to click on attachments by offering information about people in the local area who are affected by coronavirus
- Fake online resources – such as false Coronavirus Maps – that deliver malware such as AZORult Trojan, an information stealing program which can infiltrate a variety of sensitive data. A prominent example that has deployed malware is ‘corona-virus-map[dot]com’

**Donation scams**

- There have been reports of thieves extorting money from consumers by claiming they are collecting donations for a Covid-19 ‘vaccine’.

Cllr Danny Thorpe, London Councils’ Executive Member for Crime & Public Protection, said

*“While the Covid-19 emergency has brought out the best in the vast majority of Londoners, unfortunately there are also coronavirus crooks seeking to exploit people’s concerns during this difficult time.*

*“Boroughs have zero tolerance for this reprehensible behaviour. We’re taking robust action against these criminals – and Londoners can help by staying vigilant and reporting any consumer crimes to the authorities.”*

Stephen Knight, London Trading Standards Operations Director, said

*“Borough trading standards officers are very concerned about fraudsters trying to take advantage of the Covid-19 outbreak, including through online scams and doorstep and telephone calls. It is particularly despicable to target older or disabled people in the current situation.*

*“Londoners need to be alert to scams and do their best to protect those most at risk. By reporting suspicious activity, Londoners can help protect each other and support us in tacking action against these criminals.”*

**ENDS**