

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 21st 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) (173)	Recorded Hospital Deaths (Cumulative) (4211)
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Key Government Messages

This Evening's Downing Street Press Conference will be led by the Foreign Secretary & First Secretary of State, Dominic Raab.

Stay at Home Messaging

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

Let's Talk Loneliness

The latest #Let'sTalkLoneliness public campaign has been rolled out to get people talking openly about loneliness, which includes new public guidance offering useful tips and advice on what to do to look after yourself and others safely.

The campaign that initially launched last year, is being supported by famous faces across social media including TV presenter Angellica Bell and Karen Gibson, founder of The Kingdom Choir. More information can be found [here](#)

Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Simon Clarke, Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government, confirming the additional £1.6 billion of new funding to help councils across the country through the coronavirus pandemic, taking the total funding to £3.2 billion

Read the full letter [here](#)

Partner Agencies Top-Line Messages

Mayor of London

Ramadan Guidance (22nd April 2020)

The Mayor of London has issued a new social media video highlighting specific guidance in relation to the start of Ramadan. This is in addition to NHS & PHE guidance published this week.

Watch and share the video [here](#)

Protection for London Renters (22nd April 2020)

The Mayor of London is calling for greater protection for those in London who are currently renting and is calling on the Government to urgently implement a 'Triple Lock' protection for renters:

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan said: "Almost a third of Londoners rent privately – more than own a home with a mortgage - and COVID-19 has underlined the precariousness of their situation. Many are on lower incomes, have little or no savings and may have had to reduce or stop work due to the pandemic. This means that many households may be in a position where they cannot afford to pay their rent in the coming months."

"[The government must] immediately increase welfare support for renters, suspend the Benefit Cap, restore Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates to median market rents, and cover any shortfall in rental payments of private tenants unable to pay them due to COVID-19 – including those with no recourse to public funds."

Read the full news release [here](#)

Virtual Visit to London Firefighters Training (22nd April 2020)

The Mayor of London had a virtual visit today to Wembley Stadium to see how London firefighters are supporting the Ambulance Service throughout COVID-19.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan said: "London is facing unprecedented challenges and I am proud of the city's firefighters who have agreed to take on additional critical roles and support the London Ambulance Service during this public health crisis."

Today I have seen first-hand the additional training London's firefighters are doing in order to be able to support our city's ambulance service. Nearly 700 firefighters have volunteered to take on additional roles – once again displaying that our emergency services pull together in a crisis."

Public Health England

Ramadan Guidance (22nd April 2020)

Public Health England have issued new guidance in relation to Ramadan and the importance to continue to follow government advice on social distancing throughout this period.

Read the latest Public Health England blog [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](#)

London Councils

Updated Lines on Testing in Social Care Settings (22nd April 2020)

Increasing Covid-19 testing of care home residents and social care workers is crucial for slowing the spread of the virus and keeping Londoners safe.

Social care workers are playing a heroic role in London's response to the pandemic. London boroughs are clear that testing is vital for the safety of our staff and the vulnerable Londoners they care for.

Boroughs welcome the government's commitment to boosting testing capacity and are working with health and care partners to roll this out across the capital as quickly as possible.

Although this remains a significant challenge and boroughs have expressed concern about the number of tests available, we are pleased to see access improving.

NHS London

Statement on Nightingale London (22nd April)

In response to capacity questions surrounding the Nightingale Hospital, NHS London has issued the following statement:

A Spokesperson for NHS London said: "The most important point about staff at the Nightingale is that thanks to their care and expertise, patients in that hospital are being successfully treated, discharged and ultimately having their life saved.

"There remains spare capacity in the critical care network across the capital to look after all coronavirus patients and others who need our care, and while it is incredibly reassuring for both staff and patients to have backup capacity at the Nightingale to alleviate pressure on ICU departments where needed, patients can be transferred to other hospitals in the city if they are better placed to receive them at that time, as is always the case."

Transport for London

Statement on TfL's Finances (22nd April 2020)

In relation to a discussion on TfL's finances, Transport for London has issued the following statement:

A TfL spokesperson said: "The Mayor was referring to reaching our prudent 'minimum cash balances' by the end of the month, which by then will still be £1.2bn. This is sufficient for us to keep operating the city's core transport and paying our staff while we are in constructive discussions with the Government on our financial future."

Statement on Bus Driver Deaths (22nd April 2020)

Transport for London has issued a new statement on the safety of London Bus Drivers and the use of PPE.

Claire Mann, TfL's Director of Bus Operations, said: "We are all utterly devastated that Mervyn Kennedy has died as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The safety of London's bus drivers, who are all helping other critical workers tackle coronavirus, is our absolute priority. We have already delivered enhanced cleaning of all buses, improved social distancing for drivers and have made their cabs better protected.

"We are also protecting staff in welfare facilities with regular cleaning using hospital-grade antiviral fluid and fewer tables and chairs in rest areas to ensure social distancing, as well as providing enhanced sick pay so that people don't attempt to work when unwell.

"The very latest advice from scientific experts is that PPE is not required in non-care settings and could be counterproductive. As this is being constantly reviewed the Mayor has asked us to look into the availability of PPE for transport workers should the advice change."

National Crime Agency

Online Safety at Home Campaign Launched (22nd April 2020)

The National Crime agency continues to run their campaign to ensure children are protected when online at home during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Through CEOP, the NCA have created a series of #OnlineSafetyAtHome activity packs to help protect children online. Each pack contains simple 15-minute activities for children age 4-14+ which can be incorporated into home schooling.

Read more about these packs [here](#)