

Strategic Coordination Group Daily update 29 April 2020

Data Provided from NHS Statistics and are correct for deaths occurring on 28th 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/covid19-daily-deaths/>

Recorded Hospital Deaths (Daily) 109 Recorded Hospital Deaths (Cumulative) 4890

Public Health England

New Care Home Data Released (29th April 2020)

Public Health England has today released a new data set that records the number of COVID-19 outbreaks in adult social care settings. The data is broken down by local authority and highlights the percentage of care homes in each area which have recorded an outbreak.

Department for Health & Social Care

Updated Testing Eligibility (29th April 2020) The Government has updated the testing eligibility criteria to offer more clarity on who can currently receive a test.

London Councils

COVID-19 and threat to London Businesses (29th April 2020) London Councils has called for an increase to the rateable value threshold to at least £100,000 for London businesses accessing the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG).

While boroughs have delivered an additional £215m in support to London's small businesses in the past week, London Councils is concerned that the threshold set by the government means other businesses aren't receiving the support they need to endure the economic impact of Covid-19.

Many small businesses are excluded from eligibility because of the rateable value of their premises. This is particularly significant in London due to high property values. The current £51,000 limit excludes 24% of businesses in London in comparison to 9% of those outside the capital.

Cllr Clare Coghill, London Councils' Executive Member for Business, Europe, and Good Growth said: "We welcome the huge amount the government has done to date to support businesses and the self-employed but a significant number of London's well-known and much-loved small businesses are currently ineligible for grants because of the criteria set by the government, which is why we're calling for an urgent increase to the rateable value threshold."

Updated Lines on Social Care (29th April 2020)

London Councils have updated their lines on Care Homes and adult social care. London Councils Spokesperson Said: "Every Covid-19 death is a tragedy. London has the highest number of coronavirus cases in the country – and sadly we are seeing this reflected in the capital's mortality rates. London's social care services are on the frontline of the coronavirus pandemic and boroughs are doing everything they can to protect vulnerable Londoners and staff from this dreadful disease. Boroughs are putting every possible effort into supporting people in care homes and those receiving care in their own homes. Resources are prioritised for social care services supporting those most at

risk and boroughs are working with all care homes in their communities on addressing Covid-19 pressures, including on staffing levels, access to suitable PPE supplies, and coronavirus testing.”

Updated Lines on Road Closures and Social Distancing (29th April 2020)

London Councils have updated their lines on the capacity of London Boroughs to enact road closures to facilitate social distancing measures.

London Councils Spokesperson Said: "Boroughs are playing a pivotal role in supporting London's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, including through using all the powers and resources at their disposal to facilitate social distancing as much as possible and help keep Londoners safe. "Boroughs are determined to work flexibly and are carefully considering options, including road closures where appropriate, for maximising space for pedestrians on London's streets.

As well as ensuring proposals are designed safely, there are legal constraints and processes involved with changes to the public highway – intended to protect the rights of residents and businesses who may be affected – that mean it is not as simple as putting out a few signs and cones.

Transport for London

Statement on Bus Driver Deaths (29th April 2020)

Claire Mann, TfL’s Director of Bus Operations, said: “We are all utterly devastated that colleagues working in the transport industry have 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.”

Statement on Private Hire Driver Deaths (29th April 2020)

Helen Chapman, Director of Licensing, Regulation and Charging at TfL said: “We are deeply saddened to hear that taxi and private hire drivers have died as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The safety of taxi and private hire drivers and passengers is paramount. The Government has advised that taxis and private hire vehicles can continue to work but the advice is clear that people should stay at home if possible to save lives and should not travel if they or a member of their household have symptoms of the virus.

“We continue to follow the advice of Government and we are meeting regularly with trade representatives throughout this pandemic to work together on the issues being faced by the industry. We have issued regular notices with the latest advice as and when the Government publishes it, along with additional information about support with mental health or financial concerns.”

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

New Funding Allocations for London Councils (29th April 2020) Individual councils in England have had their funding allocations confirmed following Local Government Secretary Robert Jenrick’s announcement of £1.6 billion in additional funding. Through this allocation, London councils have

been allocated £254 million, bringing the total amount London councils will receive from the Government to tackle coronavirus to £518 million.

The £1.6 billion funding, recently announced, means councils in England will be provided with over £3.2 billion to deal with the immediate impacts of coronavirus. During the pandemic, councils are playing a crucial role and this extra funding will help them to continue to deliver frontline services and support to those who need it most, as well as meeting new pressures.

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, Robert Jenrick Said:

“Councils are playing a central role in our national fight against coronavirus and the government continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with them at this challenging time. That’s why I announced an extra £3.2 billion of support for councils to help them to continue their extraordinary efforts.

“Today I’m setting out how the latest £1.6 billion of this, including £254 million for London, will be allocated to councils in the fairest way possible, recognising the latest and best assessment of the pressures they face.”

Ministry of Defence

Updated Lines on Mobile Testing Units (29th April 2020)

The Armed Forces are helping to support the Government’s efforts to increase testing.

They have helped to create a network of Mobile Testing Units, which will travel the country to reach essential workers at sites where there is a demand for testing.

The Units have been designed to clinical requirements by Army engineers and can be easily set up in under 20 minutes. The new mobile units are in addition to the drive-through test sites and will rapidly increase the number of tests completed each day.

Home Office

New Visa Extensions for Frontline Health Workers (29th April 2020)

The Home Secretary has today announced Frontline workers, including midwives, radiographers, social workers and pharmacists, with visas due to expire before 1 October 2020 will receive an automatic one-year extension. It will apply to those working both in the NHS and independent sector and include their family members.

Ministry of Justice

Extensions to Prison Estates (29th April 2020)

A former Secure Training Centre will receive its first adult prisoners today as part of further work to temporarily expand the prison estate to protect the public and NHS during the Coronavirus pandemic.