

Strategic Coordination Group SCG Daily Bulletin – 15 May 2020

Daily Mortality Figures – (London)

As of 1st May 2020, the SCG daily briefing now takes account of mortalities that do not have a positive test result, but where COVID-19 is documented as a direct or underlying cause of death, dated back to the 24th April.

Patients who have died in London hospitals and had tested positive for Covid-19 at time of death.

Recorded Hospital Deaths – Daily **20** Recorded Hospital Deaths – Cumulative **5745**

Patients who have died in London hospitals where there has been no COVID-19 positive test result, but where COVID-19 is documented as a direct or underlying cause of death on the death certification process.

Recorded Hospital Deaths – Daily **7** Recorded Hospital Deaths – Cumulative **120**

Key Messaging

The Government has published new campaign assets to amplify updated messaging on transport usage. The new messaging encourages people, who cannot work from home and have to travel for work, that they should consider cycling, walking or driving to help ensure there is enough capacity for those who need to travel on public transport to do so safely.

The Government continues to issue updated sectoral guidance in relation to the easing of the lockdown.

Partner Agencies Messaging

Mayor of London

Statement on TfL's Funding Package (15th April 2020)

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan Said: "I want to be completely honest and upfront with Londoners – this is not the deal I wanted. But it was the only deal the Government put on the table and I had no choice but to accept it to keep the Tubes and buses running.

In the last few years, London has been the only major city in western Europe that hasn't received direct Government funding to run day to day transport services since it was cut by the last Government. This means we rely very heavily on passenger fares to pay for the services we run. Fares income has fallen by 90 per cent in the last two months because Londoners have done the right thing and stayed at home – so there simply isn't enough money coming in to pay for our services.

We are running as many services as humanly possible given the number of staff off sick, shielding or self-isolating. As staff are returning to work, we are increasing services as fast as possible to get back to 100 per cent. From Monday we aim to run around 85 per cent of buses, 75 per cent of Tubes, restore the Circle line and re-open some of the 37 closed stations.

The Government is, in effect, making ordinary Londoners pay the cost for doing the right thing on Covid-19. They want fares to go up next January – ending the four years fares freeze I delivered after

the last election. They have insisted that free travel is temporarily suspended for Freedom Pass and 60-plus card holders at peak times. We agreed it was the right thing to review the Congestion Charge.

The Government has also insisted that, unlike the deals done elsewhere in the country, TfL takes on £505 million of additional debt. This will undo the hard work we've put in to fix TfL's finances over the last four years – when TfL's operating deficit has reduced by 71 per cent.

This deal is a sticking plaster. The old model for funding public transport in London simply does not work in this new reality – fares income will not cover the cost of running services while so few people can safely use public transport. Over the next few months we will have to negotiate a new funding model with Government – which will involve either permanent funding from Government or giving London more control over key taxes so we can pay for it ourselves - or a combination of both.

TfL and City Hall will do all that we can to enable London's recovery. We will run as many trains and buses as possible. But we need Londoners' help. We must not use public transport unless absolutely necessary. People who can work from home must do so. Everyone must walk and cycle more. People should wear a face covering throughout their journeys. I promise to continue being as upfront and clear as possible with Londoners about the challenges facing our city. This is not the deal I wanted for our city, but together we can overcome the challenges we face."

Car Free Zones & Congestion Charge and ULEZ Re-instated (15th May 2020)

The Mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL) have today announced plans to transform parts of central London into one of the largest car-free zones in any capital city in the world.

This is necessary to enable safe social distancing on public transport in London as lockdown restrictions are eased and will help support increased walking and cycling and improve the city's air quality.

To prevent London's roads from instantly becoming unusably blocked with congestion, TfL has confirmed that the Congestion Charge and Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be reintroduced on Monday 18th May.

As a temporary measure and to support the transformation of London's streets, it is proposed that the Congestion Charge will increase to £15 next month and the hours of operation extended as part of a package of temporary changes. These changes will be monitored and form part of a wider review of the Congestion Charge as agreed with the Government as part of the TfL funding deal. Proposals include increasing the Congestion Charge to £15 and extending its hours of operation to 7am to 10pm, seven days a week, from 22 June. This would encourage Londoners not to make unnecessary car journeys and is expected to reduce journeys within the Congestion Charge zone by a third. This would significantly reduce air pollution in central London compared to pre-Covid levels and help tackle the climate emergency.

TfL will be temporarily extending the Congestion Charge reimbursement scheme to continue to support NHS and care home staff, who are at the heart of the national effort in these unprecedented times. NHS and care home employees who work in the Congestion Charge zone will be reimbursed for journeys relating to coronavirus, including for their journeys to and from work.

Public Health England

New Nowcasting & Forecasting of COVID-19 (15th May 2020)

MRC Biostatistics Unit, in collaboration with Public Health England (PHE) are regularly nowcasting and forecasting COVID-19 infections and deaths. The data highlights how London is projected to have the lowest number of daily infections.

Professor Kevin Fenton, London regional director for Public Health England, said: “The tracking of regional R numbers is showing that London currently has the lowest number of daily infections when compared to other parts of the country. While this is encouraging news and in line with London’s pattern of being a couple of weeks ahead of other regions, we can’t be complacent otherwise we risk this number increasing again. Londoners should continue to follow the current Government advice.”

British Transport Police

Additional BTP Funding (15th May 2020)

The Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has announced that the British Transport Police will be given £1.5m additional funding to boost the numbers of police at stations in London.

The funding will be used to deploy hundreds of officers more than usual across the network to support rail and tube operators manage crowds, provide clear guidance to commuters and help maintain social distancing, protecting passengers and tackling the spread of the virus.

Officers will be targeted at key pinch-points in London including rail and underground stations to ensure passengers are supported in following government guidance to make their journeys safe.

Passenger numbers on the London Underground and national rail network are currently at least 90% lower than normal levels, as people follow government advice to seek alternatives to public transport wherever possible

Paul Crowther, Chief Constable at BTP, said: “No-one should underestimate the immense logistical challenge as the transport network works to keep people who need to use the network moving. British Transport Police is supporting the network by deploying additional officers who will be focusing their time at rail and underground stations where they are most needed.

These are challenging times and we recognise the important role we can play in providing reassurance to passengers and staff. BTP officers and PCSOs have worked extremely hard throughout this crisis and I am very proud of, and grateful, for their commitment and flexibility.”

London Councils

Updated Lines on Rough Sleepers (15th May 2020)

London Councils has been assured by government officials that there are no immediate changes to the government’s policy on rough sleepers in the Covid-19 crisis, which has seen boroughs and their partners secure emergency accommodation for around 4,000 rough sleepers in the capital. No-one receiving this support is being asked to leave their accommodation at this time.

Substantial progress has been made in tackling rough sleeping in London since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Boroughs are urging the government to continue working with local authorities and others to maintain this progress and avoid a spike in homelessness.

This is a major concern in London, where we face the most significant homelessness crisis in the country.

Updated Lines on Discretionary Grant Fund (15th May 2020)

Boroughs welcome the additional funding provided to support businesses via the new Discretionary Grant Fund, with guidance published on Wednesday evening. This will help to protect some of London's small businesses that have not been eligible for previously announced funding. However, there is a huge demand estimated from businesses currently struggling due to the coronavirus crisis. London Councils' research shows London has just under half a million registered business - 495,000 businesses VAT or PAYE registered - of which 87% are micro-businesses with fewer than 10 employees.

The new Discretionary Grant Fund represents an additional 5% of funds previously allocated via the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund to individual local authorities. If a council has not spent all of their allotted fund from previous grants issued, the money for the Discretionary Grant Fund will be taken from the remainder. Boroughs have already delivered over £1.3bn to London businesses via these initial grant programmes.

London boroughs are working hard now the guidance has been published to deliver a fair and effective grants programme to allocate the limited funds available. Boroughs will be publishing their application processes for businesses shortly.

Transport for London

Statement on TfL's Housing Plans (15th May 2020)

Graeme Craig, Director of Commercial Development at Transport for London, said: "The Covid-19 crisis has had a profound effect on construction, with work largely brought to a halt during the pandemic until safer working conditions were possible.

We have an ambitious housing programme which will provide more than 10,000 homes across the capital, with a clear commitment to deliver 50 per cent affordable housing on average across all sites brought to the market since May 2016. Prior to the pandemic, the programme had been gaining momentum; work has started on almost 1,400 homes, and planning permission has already been granted for more than 3,000 homes. In addition, we have submitted planning applications for 4,500 homes, with applications for a further 4,500 homes due to be submitted in the coming months.

We remain passionately committed to delivering our housing programme in full as soon as possible. We are working to understand the impact of coronavirus on the planning system and how boroughs can continue to ensure there is public scrutiny of new development schemes, and will be working with the Mayor, developers and councils to make sure that we can build the homes our city needs in a safe, responsible and transparent way."

Government Announcements

Office for National Statistics

New Care Home Statistics (15th May 2020)

The ONS has issued a new statistical bulletin on the number of deaths in care homes in England. The findings show that 25.7% of all care home deaths in London were COVID-19 related, which is the highest regional proportion in England. The findings also show that Dementia and Alzheimer disease

was the most common main pre-existing condition found among deaths involving COVID-19 and was involved in 42.5% of all deaths of care home residents involving COVID-19.

Key Worker Statistics (15th May 2020)

A new statistical bulletin highlighting the number and the profile of the 10.6 million employed (33% of the total workforce) who are classified as key workers.

Department for Education

Guidance on Free School Meals (15th May 2020)

As part of newly published guidance, the Government has issued an update for schools and local authorities on free school meals arrangements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Department for Health & Social Care

Face Mask Distributions (14th May 2020)

More than 70 million face masks will be manufactured in the UK and delivered to frontline health and care workers following an agreement with a global technology company.

Appendix – Full Government Guidance Documents

As a result of the Prime Minister's broadcast this week (10.5.20), the government has produced a series of new guidance documents regarding the easing of the lockdown:

The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy & FAQ's

The Government's roadmap for how and when the UK will adjust its response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Frequently asked questions on what you can and can't do during the coronavirus outbreak.

Specific Guidance Documents

The Government has updated its guidance/advice across a range of specific sectors, see below for updated guidance on:

Use of Open & Green Spaces (13th May 2020)

Moving Home during COVID-19 (13th May 2020)

Transport Systems (12th May 2020)

Education Settings (11th May 2020)

Workplace Safety (11th May 2020)

Use of Face Coverings (11th May 2020)

Staying Safe Outside Your Home (11th May 2020)