

Strategic Coordination Group SCG Daily Bulletin – 5 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 **53** Recorded Hospital Deaths – Cumulative **5231**

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 **47**

Government Messaging

Social distancing measures

The Government are continuing to remind the public of the five tests that must be met before social distancing measures are adjusted. These updated tests are:

1. The NHS has sufficient capacity to provide critical care and specialist treatment right across the UK
2. A sustained and consistent fall in daily deaths from Coronavirus
3. Reliable data to show that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels across the UK
4. Operational challenges including testing and PPE are in hand with supply able to meet future demand
5. Confident that any adjustments to the current measure will not risk a second peak of infections that overwhelms the NHS

Domestic Abuse campaign

HM Government has distributed new campaign materials to promote awareness around supporting those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse. The campaign pack has been created for organisations to make employers aware that there is help and support available, including online support, helplines, refuges and local support services. The electronic pack has been circulated as part of the daily briefing email.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

New Waste Management Guidance (5th May 2020)

A guide to help waste collectors prioritise their collection services during the coronavirus pandemic. This includes managing household waste recycling centres.

Partner Agencies Messaging

London Councils

Support for London Businesses (5th May 2020)

London boroughs are working incredibly hard to provide funding support to businesses during the Covid-19 emergency.

Since the government announced its business support measures at the start of April, over £1bn has been distributed to businesses by London boroughs. Over the last week, boroughs have delivered an additional £154m to small businesses across London. This is happening as quickly as possible and to date, London businesses have received a higher share of funding paid than those outside the capital.

This weekend government announced a new discretionary fund to provide support for small businesses that may otherwise be unable to claim grants, which boroughs will administer quickly, and fairly once guidance and funding levels have been published by government.

However, there is still more to be done for businesses who do not fit the criteria set by government and are at risk during the pandemic. London Councils has called on the government to amend their guidelines for grants to provide funding support to businesses who currently do not have adequate help.

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 still currently ineligible for grants, which is why we've called for an urgent increase to the rateable value threshold.

"The current £51,000 limit excludes 24% of businesses in London in comparison to 9% of those outside the capital. Raising the rateable threshold to £100,000 for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG) would protect a further 9,370 businesses and further raising it to £150,000 would provide much-needed financial support to over 13,800 businesses."

Ministry of Defence

Secretary of State on Military Armed Forces involvement at Testing Units (5th May 2020)

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "The UK Armed Forces' exceptional skills, ingenuity and determination to accomplish such a feat deserve real credit. In just one week they have created a national network of testing to ensure our health and care workers, wherever they live, can remain on the front line against this virus. I am proud of their achievement and know our colleagues in DHSC will make best use of this national asset."

Government Announcements

Public Health England

New COVID-19 Review Launched (4th May 2020)

Thousands of existing health records for people who have had COVID-19 are to be examined as part of a major exercise to establish more robust data on the factors impacting the number of cases and health outcomes for different groups within the population.

The exercise is part of a rapid review being led by Public Health England (PHE) to better understand how different factors such as ethnicity, deprivation, age, gender and obesity could impact on how people are affected by COVID-19.

The review will also look at vulnerable groups such as people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping to understand how the virus affects them and their health outcomes.

Transport for London

Prospective Service Levels on Transport System (5 th May 2020)

A TfL spokesperson said: “Whatever happens over the coming weeks and months, everyone who can work from home must continue to do so for some time yet.

Our intention is to progressively build up service levels, but it is clear life simply won't be returning to what it was before. We are working with Government to understand how the restrictions on travel may be lifted - including their expectations on social distancing. This will dictate how many people can be safely carried alongside extensive mitigating measures like re-timing journeys to spread demand out of peak times and managing stations differently.”

“When workplaces re-open there will be significant challenges in enabling those Londoners, who cannot work from home to get to and from work while social distancing rules are still in place. We expect that there will be an enormous travel demand challenge that we will all need to overcome together, and planning is underway on how to meet that challenge and help London get moving again, safely and sustainably.”

Other Government Announcements

Department for Health & Social Care

DHSC Tracing App Launched (5 th May 2020)

The Secretary of State for Health & Social Care announced details of the track and trace app at yesterday's press conference. Isle of Wight residents will be the first to get access to a new contact tracing app as part of government action to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

Department for Education

Childcare Eligibility Protected (5th May 2020)

Temporary measures ensure critical workers will still be eligible for childcare offers if their income has changed due to coronavirus. This announcement means that Parents who are normally eligible for the government's childcare offers will continue receiving the entitlements during the summer term if their income levels fall due to the impact of coronavirus.

Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)

New Documents Released (5th May 2020)

SAGE have today published the statements and accompanying evidence they have provided to Government to demonstrate how their understanding of COVID-19 has continued to evolve as new data emerges, and how their advice has quickly adapted to new findings.