

COVID-19 guidance: summary of online resources

April 16, 2020

Note:

This list is being shared as a contribution to the response across public services; IMPOWER cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of advice offered on the sites listed. If you are aware of other resources that could be added, please email insight@impower.co.uk

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GENERAL

Coronavirus (COVID-19): UK government response

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

A general advice statement with links to

- How to protect yourself
- Employment and financial support
- Business and other organizations
- Healthcare workers and carers
- Travel
- How Corona Virus is affecting Public Services
- How you can help
- Covid-19 cases in the UK

Government News and Communications site

<https://www.gov.uk/search/news-and-communications>

- This is a general site with all new guidance

All Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance – Updated Regularly

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

- Summary of links to clinical and non-clinical guidance

COVID-19 guidance for mass gatherings

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-mass-gatherings>

- Refers to the Guidance for Social Distancing

Guidance for employers and businesses on coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

- businesses and workplaces should encourage their employees to work at home, wherever possible
- if someone becomes unwell in the workplace with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they should be sent home and advised to follow the advice to stay at home
- employees should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
- frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using your standard cleaning products
- employees will need your support to adhere to the recommendation to stay at home to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) to others
- those who follow advice to stay at home will be eligible for statutory sick pay (SSP) from the first day of their absence from work
- employers should use their discretion concerning the need for medical evidence for certification for employees who are unwell. This will allow GPs to focus on their patients

- if evidence is required by an employer, those with symptoms of coronavirus can get an isolation note from [NHS 111 online](#), and those who live with someone that has symptoms can get a note from the [NHS website](#)
- employees from defined [vulnerable groups](#) should be strongly advised and supported to stay at home and work from there if possible

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPECIFIC

COVID-19: Our Action Plan for Adult Social Care

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879639/covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan.pdf

Detailed Guidance on the Government's Action Plan for Social Care.

Social care provider resilience during COVID-19: guidance to commissioners

<https://www.local.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-councils/social-care-provider-resilience-during-covid-19-guidance-commissioners>

This guidance note is for local authority commissioners. It is designed to summarise pressures on social care providers arising from COVID-19, and to put forward ways in which commissioners can alleviate these pressures.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for local government

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>

- A summary of and links to all Local Government guidance

Social care provider resilience during COVID-19: guidance to commissioners

<https://www.local.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-councils/social-care-provider-resilience-during-covid-19-guidance-commissioners>

Shared guidance to local authority commissioners from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Care Provider Alliance (CPA).

Coronavirus (COVID-19): changes to the Care Act 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014>

- It is not automatic that the Care Act easements are in operation. There needs to be clear Council decision. Should only be done if workforce sufficiently depleted or demand so high that no longer practically to comply with CA duties.
- Assessments. Even if Care Act assessments not done, some sort of assessment of need needs to be captured in writing so that LAs are able to evidence their decision and demonstrate their professional judgement, apply the ethical framework for ASC and where necessary record they have considered the Convention (?) Rights. Assessments of children transitioning to adults also don't need to be done. It needs to be explained that current

context is very unusual and arrangements may be temporary. Also need to say that in future view will be taken whether needs eligible under Care Act.

- Support plans. No longer need to prepare CA compliant plans, but still need to provide enough info to providers such that they can develop a care plan. If support plans need to change during the easement period need to still involve people and their carers in this.
- Financial assessments. Staff MUST tell people that there may be charge for their care and support from when the service starts, but that the financial assessment for this will not be done till after the easement period. The LA must satisfy itself that the person can afford the care and support and can do a light touch assessment. People should still be engaged around financial contributions conversations.
- Prioritisation. Duty to meet eligible care and support needs replaced by power to meet needs. LAs expected to take all reasonable steps to meet needs as now but if can't powers will enable them to prioritise most pressing needs. How to prioritise is being left to local decision.

COVID-19: How DBS is supporting the fight against coronavirus

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-how-dbs-is-supporting-the-fight-against-coronavirus>

Contents

- Enhanced DBS checks for healthcare professionals
- COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Safeguarding Factsheet: Community volunteers during COVID-19 outbreak
- Updated ID checking guidelines
- Updated Subject Access Request guidelines
- Press Statement from our Chief Executive, Eric Robinson
- Other useful GOV.UK content
- Contacting us

HOUSING

Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) statements on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rsh-statement-on-coronavirus>

- Manchester office is completely closed due to circumstances outside our control and the majority of our staff are working from home
- Have paused our programme of In-Depth Assessments of registered providers. This means that for the time being we are not starting any new IDAs.

DIGITAL

Digital Social Care: COVID-19: Information Governance and Information Sharing Guidance

<https://www.digitalsocialcare.co.uk/latest-guidance/covid-19-information-governance-and-information-sharing-guidance/>

- Encouraging the use of video and mobile messaging even for clinical consultations
- “To help communication for COVID-19, Data Security and Protection Toolkit compliance requirements are being relaxed and NHSmail roll-out sped up. For all who have, or get, NHSmail accounts MS Teams access will be switched on.”

RESIDENTIAL CARE

COVID-19: guidance on residential care provision

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-residential-care-provision>

- Aimed at local authorities, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and registered providers of accommodation for people who need personal or nursing care. This includes registered residential care and nursing homes for people with learning disabilities, mental health and/or other disabilities.
 - o Steps care home providers can take to maintain services if a member of staff is concerned they have COVID-19
 - o How care homes can minimise the risks of transmission if a resident has symptoms of COVID-19
 - o Wearing personal protective equipment
 - o Steps the NHS can take to support care homes
 - o Government support
 - o Steps local authorities can take to support care home provision
 - o Remove routine burdens e.g. Cancelling all routine CQC inspections

COVID-19: guidance for supported living provision

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-supported-living-provision>

This Guidance is aimed at local authorities, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), community health services and providers of care and support delivered within supported living environments (people in their own homes), including for people with mental health conditions, learning disabilities or autistic adults.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): admission and care of people in care homes

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-admission-and-care-of-people-in-care-homes>

This guidance is for care homes, local health protection teams, local authorities, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and registered providers of accommodation for people who need personal or nursing care.

It sets out how to:

- admit and care for residents safely
- protect care home staff

HEALTHCARE

NHS Letter March 17

<https://files.constantcontact.com/9bc520cb001/4921ab17-6a26-4ea7-8e8b-d926891f1aaa.pdf>

IMPORTANT AND URGENT –NEXT STEPS ON NHS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- Free-up the maximum possible inpatient and critical care capacity
- Prepare for, and respond to, large numbers of inpatients requiring respiratory support
- Support our staff, and maximise staff availability
- Support the wider population measures newly announced by Government
- Stress-test your operational readiness
- Remove routine burdens e.g. cancelling routine CQC inspections

COVID-19: infection prevention and control

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

This guidance outlines infection control for healthcare providers assessing possible cases of COVID-19. It should be used in conjunction with local policies.

In the absence of effective drugs or a vaccine, control of this disease relies on the prompt identification, appropriate risk assessment, management and isolation of possible and confirmed cases, and the investigation and follow up of close contacts to minimise potential onward transmission.

Includes Videos

Major new measures to protect people at highest risk from Coronavirus

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-new-measures-to-protect-people-at-highest-risk-from-coronavirus>

This is a political statement to advise everyone of the importance of following government guidelines and advice

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on vulnerable children and young people

This guidance covers children:

- supported by the child social care system
- with education health and care (EHC) plans
- in alternative provision (AP) settings

COVID-19: guidance on social distancing and for vulnerable people

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

Provides Multi-lingual guidance in; English, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Mandarin, French, Gujarati, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Urdu, and Welsh

Social Distancing Guidance for all including:

- What is social distancing?
- Handwashing and respiratory hygiene
- What should you do if you develop symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Getting assistance with foods and medicines if you are reducing social contacts
- What should you do if you have hospital and GP appointments during this period?
- What is the advice for visitors including those who are providing care for you?
- What is the advice if I live with a vulnerable person?
- Looking after your mental wellbeing
- What steps can you take to stay connected with family and friends during this time?
- Advice for informal carers

| Group/ Action | Wash hands more often | Household isolation for 14 days* | Self - isolation for 7 days** | Social mixing in the community*** | Having friends and family to the house | Use remote access to NHS and essential services**** | Vary daily commute and use less public transport | Home working |
|---|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------|
| 0 – 69 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Advised against | Advised against | Advised | Advised | Advised |
| 70+ | Yes | Yes | Yes | Strongly advised against | Strongly advised against | Strongly advised | Strongly advised | Strongly advised |
| Any age Member of vulnerable group with an underlying health condition ¹ | Yes | Yes | Yes | Strongly advised against | Strongly advised against | Strongly advised | Strongly advised | Strongly advised |
| Pregnant women | Yes | Yes | Yes | Strongly advised against | Strongly advised against | Strongly advised | Strongly advised | Strongly advised |
| Those with serious underlying health conditions | As above, but further bespoke guidance will be provided by the NHS next week | | | | | | | |

COVID-19: guidance for hostel or day centres for people rough sleeping

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-services-for-people-experiencing-rough-sleeping>

Main messages are:

- hostels and day centres do not need to close at the current time unless directed to do so by Public Health England (PHE) or the government
- frequently clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your standard cleaning products
- if a member of staff becomes unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they should be sent home
- if a resident in a hostel becomes unwell, they should stay in their room
- if someone becomes unwell in a day centre, and they do not have a home or room in which to self-isolate, they should be isolated temporarily in an area of the day centre and staff are advised to contact the local authority
- staff, residents and visitors should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds, more frequently and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
- local authority public health, housing and social care teams are encouraged to work closely together to identify appropriate local solutions for people who don't have anywhere to self-isolate. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) intends to issue a further communication to local authorities on this in due course
- staff will be eligible for statutory sick pay (SSP) when staying at home

COVID-19: prisons and other prescribed places of detention guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-prisons-and-other-prescribed-places-of-detention-guidance>

This guidance will assist healthcare staff and custodial/detention staff in addressing coronavirus (COVID-19) in prescribed places of detention (PPDs).

Main messages are:

- any prisoner/detainee with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature should be placed in protective isolation for 7 days
- if a member of staff or visitor becomes unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they should go home
- staff, prisoners and visitors should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
- frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using your standard cleaning products
- prisoners/detainees who have a new, continuous cough or a high temperature but are clinically well enough to remain in prescribed places of detention (PPDs) do not need to be transferred to hospital.
- confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) should be notified by prison or immigration removal centre (IRC) healthcare teams as soon as possible to local Public Health England Health Protection Teams
- people who are severely unwell may be transferred to appropriate healthcare facilities with usual escorts and following advice on safe transfers
- staff should wear specified personal protective equipment (PPE) for activities requiring sustained close contact with possible cases (see below for detail)
- if facing multiple cases of those displaying symptoms, 'cohorting', or the gathering of potentially infected cases into a designated area, may be necessary
- PPD leaders should be assessing their estate for suitable isolation and cohorting provision

CHILDRENS' SERVICES AND EDUCATION

COVID-19: guidance for educational settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

This guidance will assist schools and other educational settings in providing advice for pupils, students, staff and parents or carers regarding:

- the novel coronavirus, COVID-19
- how to help prevent spread of all respiratory infections including COVID-19
- what to do if someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 has been in a school or other educational setting

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on vulnerable children and young people

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

This Guidance refers to vulnerable children which includes those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Full guidance on staying at home and away from others

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

“The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives.”

“When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. That is why the government is now (23 March 2020) introducing three new measures.

1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for very limited purposes
2. Closing non-essential shops and community spaces
3. Stopping all gatherings of more than two people in public

Every citizen must comply with these new measures. The relevant authorities, including the police, will be given the powers to enforce them – including through fines and dispersing gatherings.

These measures are effective immediately. The Government will look again at these measures in three weeks, and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.”

Further businesses and premises to close

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close>

This document provides guidance on the closure of all retailers that sell non-essential goods and other non-essential premises, as part of further social distancing measures.

This document supports the government’s guidance on staying at home. It provides full guidance on the government’s announcement made on 23 March 2020 and the list of businesses and premises expected to close.