

Shopping/supermarkets

Shall I aim to get all my food delivered to my house?

People can still go out to buy basic necessities but should only leave the house to shop for food and other essentials if they have to.

We will continue working closely with supermarkets to help them meet the demand for online deliveries.

We're also working with local authorities to deliver essential items to those who are most vulnerable.

The food I need isn't in the supermarket; can't I go more than once so I can get the essentials I need?

We need everyone to do their bit to stop the spread of the virus.

People must stay at home and should only leave the house to shop for food and other essentials if they have to.

People should do their food shopping as infrequently as possible.

Isn't the 2 metre rule broken at the supermarket checkout?

We need everyone to do their bit to stop the spread of the virus.

We all have a responsibility to keep a distance from others – including while shopping.

Food shops that remain open will be expected to comply with requirements on people to keep a distance from each other.

Supermarkets are crowded? Should they be doing more to limit people entering?

We need everyone to do their bit to stop the spread of the virus. We all have a responsibility to keep a distance from others – including while shopping.

Food shops that remain open will be expected to comply with requirements on people to keep a distance from each other.

What should supermarkets be doing to stop customers getting too close?

Food shops that remain open will be expected to comply with requirements on people to keep a distance from each other.

This includes maintaining a distance between customers and employees, monitoring the number of customers in the shop so they can keep their distance from each other, and taking steps to control queues outside the shop.

I have a large family who are now at home. If I can only go to the shop infrequently, I will have to stock up which goes against Government advice?

There is more than enough food to go around and our food supply chain is able to expand production to cope with increased demand.

That's why we are asking people to only buy what they need for themselves and their families.

If people buy more than they need, then others will be left without.

Won't the supermarkets run out of food if restaurants and pubs can't sell food?

Our leading supermarkets have been clear there is plenty of stock available, and they are working around the clock to ensure people have the food and supplies they need.

There is more than enough food to go around and our food supply chain is able to expand production to cope with increased demand.

We've introduced new measures to make sure businesses can continue to keep food supply flowing, such as extending delivery hours to supermarkets to ensure shelves can be replenished more quickly and relaxing competition laws so supermarkets can work together to feed the nation.

We've also relaxed planning rules so pubs and restaurants can operate food delivery services.

So shall I get takeaway from my restaurant to ease burden on supermarkets?

We've relaxed planning rules so that pubs and restaurants can operate their own food delivery services. This means people can carry on supporting local restaurants and cafes who can now provide takeaways.

Our retailers and the food producers who supply them are working around the clock to keep shelves stocked and the nation fed.

There is more than enough food to go round and our food supply chain is able to expand production to cope with increased demand.

Can I collect a takeaway or is it delivery only?

People can still collect their takeaways in person where restaurants remain open, but need to keep a distance from each other.

I usually drive my elderly neighbour to the shop. Shall I stop doing this now?

Yes. Older and vulnerable people must stay at home.

We encourage people to support their neighbours, friends or family members with their food errands – particularly those who are in vulnerable groups.

This means getting them what they need while you're doing your own shop, so that you are visiting the shop as infrequently as possible.

We're also working with local authorities to deliver essential items to those who are most vulnerable.

Usually my elderly friends and me all get in the car and go to the shop together. Shall we now all go separately?

Yes. Older and vulnerable people must stay at home.

We encourage people to support their neighbours, friends or family members with their food errands – particularly those who are in vulnerable groups.

We're also working with local authorities to deliver essential items to those who are most vulnerable.

You're asking the public to help out those who are being shielded or self-isolating – how do they do this if not allowed to go to the shops?

Those without any symptoms of coronavirus can still go to the shops for essential supplies as long as they are doing so as infrequently as possible.

We encourage them to help neighbours, friends and family members staying at home with their food errands – particularly those who are in vulnerable groups.

This means getting them what they need while you're doing your own shop, so that you are visiting the shop as infrequently as possible.

When shopping people should be considerate and only buy what they need for themselves and their families.

We're also working with local authorities to deliver essential items to those who are most vulnerable.

Medical visits/work

I live by myself, am in the vulnerable group and need to get my medicine. What should I do?

We recognise the concern and uncertainty about the practicalities of everyday life that these new measures create, but we're determined you won't face this alone.

Where friends and family aren't able to help you access your medicine, we will provide the support you need through the new Local Support System, which will ensure you receive basic groceries and your medicine is delivered to you.

Government advice isn't clear. Our company works much better in the office together but I can get by at home. Shall I work at home?

We have been repeatedly clear that people should work from home where they can, and we urge those who can do so to stay at home.

We therefore ask you and your employer to take every possible step to allow you to work from home.

We must ensure that everyone plays their part during this challenging period, to reduce the spread of the coronavirus and save lives.

There are now fewer trains/tubes, so they're now more crowded. Why don't you provide more tubes so they are quieter?

We are aware of some instances of overcrowding on train services, and are working with operators as a priority to see if small numbers of services can be reintroduced in response.

The advice is absolutely clear - people should stay at home if possible. That is the way to save lives and protect our NHS.

Should only key workers still go to work in person?

If it is impossible for you to work from home, you are able to go to work. For example, this will apply to those who do manual labour, such as in the construction and manufacturing industries, as well as those who provide services that cannot be done from home, such as restaurant workers providing takeaways.

You are able to go to work if you absolutely have to, unless you are a vulnerable member of society, in which case we urge you to stay at home as per the guidance.

Why are you allowing construction/manufacturing to carry on as before?

If it is impossible for you to work from home, you are able to go to work. For example, this will apply to those who do manual labour, such as in the construction and manufacturing industries, as well as those who provide services that cannot be done from home, such as restaurant workers providing takeaways.

You are able to go to work if you absolutely have to, unless you are a vulnerable member of society, in which case we urge you to stay at home as per the guidance.

Do you care more about the economy than saving lives?

No. This is first and foremost a public health emergency and our absolute priority is saving lives.

However, the coronavirus will have a significant impact on people's livelihoods and our economy and it's important we address this, as we're also facing an economic emergency.

As the Chancellor has said, he will do whatever it takes to support the economy through this crisis so that individuals, families and businesses are protected.

Closing places

What will be closed because of this latest change?

We do now need to close shops and organisations that are not essential to everyday life.

We are therefore asking hair, beauty and nail salons, clothes and electronics shops, and outdoor and indoor markets to close [this does not include supermarkets].

We also need to close community spaces where people gather. These include places of worship, playgrounds and other enclosed spaces in parks, libraries, community centres, indoor recreation centres and outdoor gyms.

Are you closing parks?

We're not closing parks, although enclosed spaces within parks, such as playgrounds, will be closed. We urge people to use parks responsibly, by following the social distancing guidelines and keeping 2m between yourself and others.

Parks are for running or walking, they're not for having picnics with friends.

Can you update us on what is currently on the list of places that have been closed?

We have to close shops and organisations that are not essential to everyday life.

We have now closed bars, pubs, restaurants and all non-essential retail. This includes hair, beauty and nail salons, clothes and electronics shops, and outdoor and indoor markets.

Schools, colleges and nurseries are already closed, unless they've been asked to stay open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers, but this now extends to other areas where communities gather, including places of worship, playgrounds and other enclosed spaces in parks, libraries, community centres, indoor recreation centres and outdoor gyms.

When will this come into effect?

This will come into effect from midnight tonight, with affected businesses closing as soon as possible and not opening tomorrow.

Communities

Are you closing community centres? Why?

Yes. Community centres will close for social gatherings.

Where they are essential to the delivery of services, and to our new Local Support System, they will remain open.

Our message is clear – people should stay at home if possible. This will save lives, protect the vulnerable and support the NHS.

Are you worried about closing these community assets given that you have said you need communities to mobilise and help the vulnerable in communities?

We recognise the challenges this will present, but our priority is to protect the most vulnerable people.

A new Local Support System will make sure those individuals that have been identified by the NHS to stay at home, and are without a support network of friends and family, will receive basic groceries and medicine.

Members of the armed forces, are already supporting Local Resilience Forums to develop and implement their plans in support of this effort.

Many communities have already begun using the social media to consider how to help their neighbours and those in need in their community. This is excellent work, but should not lead to groups gathering together.

Should people get together to support vulnerable yes or no? (example: people meet in church hall stand 2m apart pack support packages)

People should not be gathering together, but we will do everything to support vulnerable people who are without a network of friends and families, and members of the armed forces are supporting Local Resilience Forums with these efforts.

Many communities have already begun using the social media to consider how to help their neighbours and those in need in their community. This is excellent work, but should not lead to groups gathering together.

Are you closing all places of worship?

Yes. We sadly must close community spaces where people gather, including places of worship.

This also includes people gathering together for collective worship in private homes.

People are encouraged connect digitally or with family for services.

When will that come into effect?

This should take effect immediately from this evening.

Is there any prospect of churches opening for Easter Sunday?

With the greatest regret, for the time being, places of worship will be closed.

We will revisit these policies in three weeks.

We do not want this to go on for a day longer than it has to. But protecting the NHS and saving lives is the national priority.

Will you ban priests/imams/rabbis from entering their places of worship too?

No – that is for individual priests, imams or rabbis to decide.

What we are saying, it that the public should not be gathering together at places of worship. We have seen examples of faith leaders reaching out to communities across the country in innovative ways.

What will happen with funerals?

Funerals will continue to go ahead, but the number of mourners should be restricted to immediate family only and to allow a safer distance between individuals of at least 2 metres.

What about Ramadan?

Again, for the time being mosques will remain closed.

We understand the importance of gathering together in Ramadan so we encourage Muslim communities to use digital technology to connect with your friends and families.

Government will work closely with Muslim leaders to develop specific suggestions closer to the time.

And Passover?

The same restrictions will apply to Passover. The Jewish community should have Seder within the household and find alternative ways to share with wider family/community.

Are you closing parks?

Parks will remain open for people to exercise, provided you are at least 2 metres away from anyone not in your household.

Exercise is very important for people's mental and physical well-being.

However outdoor leisure facilities and communal places within parks, including playgrounds must not be used.

We are giving the police powers to enforce these rules if they are flouted.

Why has X council decided to close parks?

It is for local councils to decide whether or not to keep their parks open, taking into account the availability of safe outdoor space and public health advice on social distancing.

What is your message to people over the weekend?

Our message is clear – people should stay at home if possible. This will save lives, protect the vulnerable and support the NHS.

If you are going out and socialising when you don't need to then you are putting people's lives at risk.

When you are outdoors (for example, on a walk) ensure that you stay at least 2 metres away from other people.

Why has this taken you so long to take this action? Ireland did it last week?

We've been following the latest scientific and medical advice from the start, and we've been clear it is important to bring in the measures at the right time.

Our message is clear – people should stay at home if possible. This will save lives, protect the vulnerable and support the NHS.

Can children still play with each other? Wasn't advice from the CMO that children could continue to 'buddy'?

Playgrounds will now be closed to avoid families and children gathering together.

We do not yet need to close parks, but we ask families to use their parks responsibly, observing the 2 metre rule.

People should continue to stay at home if possible, protecting our NHS and saving lives.

Non-essential retail

What is non-essential retail? What is classed as non-essential?

These are shops that are not essential to the critical response to coronavirus, to ensuring key public services keep running, or to supporting people to stay at home.

For example, non-essential retail includes stores, where many of the products can be ordered online and delivered directly home, such as clothing, furniture and department stores. Hair, beauty and nail salons must also close to reduce long periods of unnecessary close contact.

Why has it taken you so long to go further on the closure of non-essential retail?

Our approach is always guided by the best and latest scientific advice, taking the right steps at the right time.

People should stay at home, unless they have an exceptional reason to go out – closing non-essential retail is a part of this.

What is the impact of closing non-essential retail? How many jobs do you expect to be lost?

There are strong measures in place to protect businesses, jobs and incomes as part of the national effort in response to coronavirus. Non-essential retailers and their workers will be eligible for different schemes to support them through this time, such as the coronavirus business retention scheme.

Should businesses you've told to close be worried about security of their stock and premises? Will the government accept liability?

Businesses should ensure to leave all premises secure with the appropriate level of security surveillance. We would expect companies to have the appropriate insurance.

Is it a waste for police to patrol empty streets? Are you concerned about looting?

The police will be on hand to ensure that any disturbances are dealt with quickly and effectively. Businesses should ensure to leave all premises secure with the appropriate level of security surveillance.

Are bike shops really essential?

Bike shops support delivery drivers who are essential to the distribution of food and other essential goods. They also support people to make essential travel without coming into contact with others.

Are hardware shops really essential?

Yes, it will help the public perform minor repairs without having to call a professional (reducing unnecessary contact) and also support plumbers, electricians and carpenters to carry out essential services.

Are laundrettes really essential?

Of course where people can clean their clothes at home, they must do so. But laundrettes will allow people to clean their clothes when they cannot from home, including workers on the front line of the coronavirus response.

Why grocery markets but not farmers markets?

There will be increased contact between individuals at farmers markets, which also attract crowds. Grocery markets are contained indoors, typically with one seller, rather than many. Many people across the UK also depend on their local grocery market for fresh food.

Who has decided this list?

The Government.

What support is there available to X? and their employees?

The Chancellor has outlined an unprecedented package of measures to protect businesses, jobs and incomes as part of the national effort in response to coronavirus. All non-essential retailers will be eligible for different schemes to support them through this time.

High street is already dying – can you give me a guarantee these shops will reopen?

We recognise the challenges facing the retail industry and our high streets. We are doing everything we can to support businesses to pay their employees, rents, and suppliers, so that they can continue to operate during this time.

What can staff do to help the national effort if they want too?

The best way to support the national effort is to stay at home, as this will help protect the NHS and save lives.

Why has it taken so long to close communal eating places like food markets?

Our approach is always guided by the best and latest scientific advice, taking the right steps at the right time.

Closing communal eating spaces will reduce non-essential contact between people and help people to stay at home, unless they have an exceptional reason to go out, which will help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Should businesses you've told to close be worried about security of their stock and premises? Will the government accept liability?

Businesses should ensure to leave all premises secure with the appropriate level of security surveillance. We would expect companies to have the appropriate insurance.

If they can't then won't food shortages become an issue again?

No. We have taken this approach to ensure continued food supply – supermarkets will continue to operate, and other retail shops like grocery shops and fresh food suppliers will also be able to stay open to reduce the pressure on supermarkets.

A large number of these people are self-employed. You've announced little in the way of support haven't you?

We understand the difficult position the self-employed are in and the Chancellor has announced a package of measures to protect their incomes. We have always said we will go further where we can and are actively considering further steps.

A self-employed person could be entitled to combination of Universal Credit + Local Housing Allowance + Child Benefits to see them through the next few months depending on their circumstances.

Removing the minimum income floor means benefits will no longer assume that you earn a minimum amount and will take into account your actual earnings - meaning it will properly catch those who have seen their income fall to nothing.

In addition to these measures we have worked to reduce the fixed outgoings of self employed people. So they can also benefit from:

- Rent deferral
- Mortgage deferral
- Energy Bill deferral
- Tax Bill deferral
- Business VAT deferral
- IR35 deferral

Workplaces

How will you enforce people going to work?

Employers need to play their part and be responsible about who actually needs to be in the office. We've been clear that you can only travel to work which you are doing work that absolutely cannot be done from home.

What about companies that are offering staff accommodation in skyscrapers?

We've been clear that employers should carefully consider the guidance. It sets out that they should help their staff find alternative arrangements to support them working from their homes.

Could some workplaces be used for hospitals?

We are taking steps in order to slow the spread of the disease, flatten the peak and stop the NHS and its facilities being overwhelmed when we need them most. We keep our healthcare facilities under constant review and hotels, hostels or similar could be used in future to house the vulnerable or provide overflow space.

Are you asking all businesses to close?

No, we are only asking shops that sell non-essential goods to close. Other businesses can stay open, but all workers must work from home unless it is impossible for them to do so.

Can I still take my children to school?

Yes, if you work in a critical sector outlined in DfE's guidance, or your child has been identified as vulnerable, you can continue to take your children to the schools we've asked to remain open for them.

Enforcement

What will happen if businesses do not close?

As of 2pm on 21 March 2020, closures are now enforceable by law in England and Wales due to the threat to public health.

Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers, with police support if appropriate, will work together to issue prohibition notices challenging unsafe behaviours where businesses do not follow these restrictions.

Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers will monitor compliance, and businesses who fail to comply can also receive fines. Officers will also have powers to prosecute for breaches of regulations.

As agreed with the devolved administrations these measures will be extended to Scotland and Northern Ireland by Ministerial Direction once the Coronavirus Bill is in force.

If you are withdrawing licenses from pubs, how long will that last?

Where pubs are in violation of the Regulations, our first approach will be to use prohibition orders. If businesses break these, then they can be prosecuted for ignoring the regulations and face unlimited fines. If pubs continue to fail to comply, then non-compliance could lead to the loss of their alcohol license, as set out in the Licensing Act.

Licensing authorities would need to consider on a case by case basis, following the process set out in the Licensing Act.

Communications

Advice seems to change from day to day? What's the latest?

We've been clear from the start that any measures would reflect the latest scientific and medical advice.

This is new virus, so you would expect the advice to change as the understanding of how and why it is spreading becomes clearer.

The latest information is exactly as the PM has set out today.

How much are you spending on this public info campaign? More than Get Ready for Brexit?

You wouldn't expect me to second guess what the final cost will be, especially as the campaign is just launching.

But what I will say is that this is a hugely important campaign; one which will directly protect the NHS and save lives.

Background:

The campaign will involve a mass paid-for media push, costing up to £4m a week for the next 6 weeks (roughly the Brexit campaign spend). It will include TV ads, social, press, radio, posters, signage and other media.

Haven't seen much? Government should be doing more to inform people?

We have done a huge amount of work to keep people informed of the latest advice. This includes, but is not limited to:

- A public campaign on hand washing, covering TV, radio, social, print, and other channels
- Continual updates of public guidance on gov.uk, covering support for workers, parents, children, businesses, and many more.
- Regular press conferences with the Prime Minister and medical and scientific experts, including every day for the last week.
- Medical experts giving regular technical media briefings, including the CMO and CSA.
- Work with social media firms to signpost users to the latest information on how to stay safe.

Too little too late?

No. Responsible, precautionary behaviour is more important now than ever.

How we all act in the coming weeks and months will directly help protect the NHS and save lives.

Is this Government advice? Or Government order?

This is clear advice, but anyone who does not comply will face criminal sanctions.

My neighbour is not following Government advice and is still going to work and having people to their house. Who do I report them to?

We are urging everyone to follow this advice. The PM has been clear that we all have a role to play in slowing the spread of this virus, protecting the NHS and saving lives.

Anyone who does not comply will face criminal sanctions

I don't live in London – this doesn't really apply to me?

This applies to every person in each of the UK's four nations. Everyone must play their part in slowing the spread of this virus, protecting the NHS and saving lives.

How can I distinguish Government advice from general adverts?

Government advice will usually contain official government logos, crests or branding.

Who's in charge of signage?

Whilst the campaign will be coordinated centrally, local authorities will be responsible for signage in their communities.

What if Local Authorities don't have the resources to ensure this signage?

This is a hugely important public information campaign, which will directly help protect the NHS and save lives.

If any local authorities do not have enough resources to provide this signage, we would encourage them to talk to central government.

Can I break social distancing rules if my purposes are charitable?

We have seen an incredible movement and effort across the country already, and we're hugely grateful who support their communities by volunteering day-to-day.

Our guidance is clear that everyone should now stay at home, apart from in exceptional circumstances. They may leave their house to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.

When outside of their homes, people should stay at least 2 metres away from others wherever possible.

What's your advice to people who want to help? What are the rules?

We have seen an incredible movement and effort across the country already, and we're hugely grateful who support their communities by volunteering day-to-day.

Our guidance is clear that everyone should now stay at home, apart from in exceptional circumstances. They may leave their house to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.

When outside of their homes, people should stay at least 2 metres away from others. Remember, there are many ways that people can help others, including the most vulnerable, while avoiding physical contact.

For example, you could:

- Phone for a chat to keep them company
- Connect on social media
- Do shopping or run errands for them
- Pick up medicines

Will volunteering to support vulnerable/elderly people be allowed?

The advice is clear that everyone should stay at home, apart from in exceptional circumstances. They may leave their house to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.

We will do everything we can to support vulnerable people who are without a network of friends and families.

I volunteer at a homeless shelter one night every week. Should I now stop this?

The advice is clear that everyone should stay at home, apart from in exceptional circumstances and adhere to the social distancing guidelines. They may leave their house to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.

We will do everything we can to support vulnerable people who are without a network of friends and families.

So it doesn't matter if they go without food? They need food more than ever – with places like Pret and Itsu not giving them leftover food?

Public safety and protecting the most vulnerable people in society from coronavirus is this government's top priority.

We are working with a range of charities – such as FareShare and the British Red Cross – who are playing a crucial role in the nation's response, to support those affected by coronavirus and coordinate help across the country, including through the provision of support through food banks.

This effort will continue at pace.

Should MPs be taking part in community action?

Everyone, including key workers and their households, must follow public health advice.

All non-essential contact with those outside of your household must be stopped. Where people do leave their homes, they must follow the advice and stay at least 2 metres apart from others at all times.

There are ways in which they can support the local community while still remaining at home, such as connecting on social media, for example.

Social, outdoor activity and exercise

I live with someone who is a key worker. Should I avoid coming in to contact with them?

Where people can work from home and it is practical - even if they fall into one of the categories of key workers - then they should do so.

Everyone, including key workers and their households, must follow public health advice. That means that if they have symptoms they too should stay at home for 7 days, or 14 days if a member of the household has symptoms.

Can my boyfriend/girlfriend come over for the night?

We appreciate that our social distancing measures will have considerable impacts on people's lives but the most pressing issue of paramount importance must be public health.

We are therefore saying that all non-essential contact with those outside of your household must be stopped. And if anyone has symptoms they should stay at home for 7 days, or 14 days if a member of the household has symptoms.

Can my friend come over for supper for the evening? It will just be the two of us and we will keep 2 metres apart?

All non-essential contact with those outside of your household must be stopped. This includes avoiding gatherings with friends and family.

Can I exercise?

We advise that this is limited to outdoor exercise once a day – like a walk, a run or a bike ride. But do this by yourself or with your household, not in groups.

It is important to do this responsibly, keeping at least 2 metres apart from others at all times. People should not congregate and gather in parks or on the streets.

- Physical activity is important. Being active in a way that is right for you, can improve your physical health, help manage stress and anxiety but the social distancing guidelines have to be adhered to.
- The Government wants people to remain fit and active. But it may be that people have to find new ways to remain active, in their own homes or by exercising alone.
- Sport England are advising people on different ways of staying active in these circumstances. More detailed information can be found on their website which is being updated as the situation evolves: <https://www.sportengland.org/news/coronavirus-information-sector>
- There's a wealth of free online content to help you get active – Sport England are collating some of this and are encouraging people to share some of the best ideas they find online using **#StayInWorkOut**. Sport England have also set up this page [directing you to some of these](#).
- People should not congregate and gather in parks or on the streets.

Can I meet my friend and go for a walk with them if we keep 2 metres apart?

We ask that you reduce your social contact as much as possible

We encourage you to exercise once a day – like a walk, a run or a bike ride, but it is safest to do this by yourself or with members of your household only, not in large groups.

It is important to do this responsibly, keeping at least 2 metres apart from others at all times.

What about private squares in my apartment block?

You can use communal outdoor space including private squares, but it is important to do this responsibly, keeping at least 2 metres apart from others at all times. People must not congregate and gather in these spaces.

What about communal living spaces in my block? Can I use them?

Unless absolutely necessary, you should avoid communal living spaces and stay in your home. This will help protect the NHS and save lives.

How many people from one household are allowed out for a walk at the same time?

All members of a household are allowed out. Our intention is to minimise social contact *between* households. As per PHE guidelines, if one person in a household ought to be self-isolating, *all* members of that household ought to be self isolating.

While people in the same household can go on a walk together, they need to adhere to the social distancing guidelines and not come into unnecessary contact with others.

I'm at home with three children – can we all go out together?

All members of a household are allowed out. Our intention is to minimise social contact *between* households. As per PHE guidelines, if one person in a household ought to be self-isolating, *all* members of that household ought to be self isolating.

While people in the same household can go on a walk together, they need to adhere to the social distancing guidelines and not come into unnecessary contact with others.

Can I go to a holiday home/take a staycation?

People who have recently arrived at a holiday destination or second home should look to return to their primary residence as soon as possible, but only if they can do so safely and in compliance with the social distancing guidance.

As background

- If anyone is symptomatic (cough, fever), they should not use public transport to return to their primary residence
- Whilst using public transport people should adhere to the simple social distancing principles of being 2m apart.

Are you suggesting people can't go to their second homes?

Leisure trips are not essential travel and we are strongly advising that people stay at home where they are now to reduce pressure on NHS services.

The government has been clear about the need for everyone to follow the latest social distancing guidance and that applies wherever they are in the UK.

Are you going to lock down London so people can't move around the county?

No. The government is strongly urging everyone to follow the latest social distancing guidance and avoid unnecessary travel in line with advice from public health experts.

What's your message to holiday companies trying to make money off of this?

Leisure trips are not essential travel and we are strongly advising that people stay at home where they are now to reduce pressure on NHS services.

The government has announced a huge package of measures and recognises that many businesses don't have insurance for pandemics. But the Chancellor has made cash grants available to help businesses bridge through this period.

Business Rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure: All eligible businesses, large and small, in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors will pay no business rates in England for 12 months from 1 April 2020.

This support is worth over £9.5bn to businesses, on top of the package announced at Budget.

The holiday will be reflected in bills by local authorities as soon as possible and local authorities will be fully compensated for the cost of this measure.

Those who need to shield, isn't this a good way to do it?

Those who are at the highest risk of being hospitalised by the virus are urged to shield themselves and stay at home, staying away from all social contact. Full guidance on who this affects can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk):

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

Enforcement

General

How will you enforce these new measures?

To be clear, every citizen is instructed to do this and we will enforce it.

We are confident people will do the right thing and stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

But if there are still people crowding the streets and our parks we will enforce this.

And the police will issue fines to anyone who does not comply.

What will happen to people who don't abide by them?

As other countries have done, the police will be able to enforce these measures.

For instance, they will disperse groups of people who are not following the rules, and could use fines to enforce this.

You're bringing these measures in but you don't have the power to enforce them?

The police will have the necessary powers to do this.

This is of vital importance to save lives.

[For background: We will ensure the police have powers under new Public Health Regulations - which will be in place on Thursday.]

Isn't this just Government playing catch up again without the necessary powers?

We don't want to have to bring in draconian laws.

We hope that people will do the right thing and stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

But people should be under no illusion. We are enforcing this and if you flout the rules you could be fined.

How long will it last for?

We will revisit these policies in three weeks.

The hope is that if people have complied, and the science supports it, we will be able to take this emergency break off.

We do not want this to go on for a day longer than it has to. But protecting the NHS and saving lives is the national priority.

Can't people just lie about where they're out?

Look, if you are gathering the police will take action to disperse you and could use fines to enforce this.

Will two parents taking their child for a walk in the park be punished?

We appreciate with very young children this is difficult, but we are asking parents to adhere to this as much as possible and ensure you are keeping a two metre distance from others.

If a couple goes to the park and sits 2 metres away from another couple, is that breaching these rules?

As we've set out, leaving home to go to the park should be for essential exercise, following social distance rules.

Will this be enforced uniformly across all four nations of the UK?

Yes. This will be enforced across all devolved nations.

Fixed-penalty notices**Will they get a criminal record?**

An individual would not get a criminal record for receiving a fine.

What's the offence they'll be guilty of?

Fines would be levied for contravention of regulations under the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act.

How much will the fixed-penalty notice be?

More detail will follow.

But we will keep this under review and reserve the ability to increase this if necessary.

What if people cannot afford to pay the fine?

If you comply with social distancing rules - which are there to protect the NHS and save lives - then you won't be fined.

Will you prosecute people who do not pay it in time?

This will be fully enforced.

We could not be clearer, if you ignore social distancing rules you are putting lives at risk.

I am self-employed, out of work and relying on statutory sick pay. I will not be able to pay the fine and the Government is not supporting me. Will I be prosecuted?

All we are asking people to do is to follow the social distancing rules.

We appreciate this is a huge change to people's lives and freedoms.

But there are doctors and nurses fighting this virus on the front line.

And we all have to play our part to protect the NHS and save lives.

Given adherence to the Government's advice so far, will the system be able to cope with this if people continue to breach the guidelines?

We will give the NHS everything it needs to fight this virus.

But I could not be clearer, people need to stay at home unless they have an exceptional reason to go out.

These rules are to protect the NHS and save lives.

Everybody has a responsibility to do this.

Police

Will there be more police on the street?

We are working with the police to ensure we can enforce this fully.

What is the definition of a 'group'? Can you give a specific number?

We expect police to use their discretion but to disperse gatherings of people which is clearly in contravention of the social distancing rules.

[The guidance says: To make sure people are staying at home the Government is stopping all public gatherings of more than two people.

There are only two exceptions to this rule:

- *where the gathering is of a group of people who live together - this means that a parent can, for example, take their children to the shops if there is no option to leave them at home; or*
- *where the gathering is essential for work purposes - but workers should be trying to minimise all meetings and other gatherings in the workplace.*

In addition, the Government is stopping social events, including weddings, baptisms and other religious ceremonies. This will exclude funerals attended by immediate family.]

Will anyone else other than police be asked to disperse groups?

These powers would be enforced by the police.

But we can all help them by encouraging our friends and family to do the right thing.

Do Police Scotland have more powers than police in the rest of the UK?

The police in England, Scotland, Wales and NI will all have the necessary powers to enforce this.

The powers of the police services in Scotland and NI are a devolved matter.

You don't have powers to enforce curfews in the emergency legislation?

We will ensure police have the powers they need to ensure everyone is staying at home, protecting the NHS and saving lives.

Are you giving the police additional powers?

Yes. We will lay regulations under the Health Protection Act.

What additional resource are you providing to the police to handle enforcement?

We are in regular contact with the police and will work with them to ensure they have the support and resources they need to enforce this.

Police at tube stations?

We will be working with the police on these details and as they take operational decisions on how best to deploy their resources.

Will Army step in to help police enforce these rules?

We will be working with the police to ensure this can be properly enforced, and as I said we would hope that people will do the right thing.

This is a national effort to protect the NHS and save lives.

We want people to step up and take responsibility for their actions.

Would you be giving them more money to do this?

There are already processes in place under which reimbursement of additional police costs can be considered.

How will you enforce this if the courts can't cope already?

Again, to be clear, we will enforce this.

And you can expect more detail soon.