

Please see the Public Health England update below dated 24 March:

- The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that, as of 9am on 24 March 2020, a total of 90,436 people have been tested, of which 82,359 were confirmed negative and 8,077 were confirmed positive. 422 patients in the UK who tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have died. DHSC will publish updated data on [this page](#) on a daily basis each afternoon until further notice. Please be aware that tests are now being prioritised for those who require hospital care for pneumonia or acute respiratory illness – while continuing to investigate outbreaks, ie where several cases are connected, especially in a particular setting such as a care home. This change is being reflected in the surveillance data we report which will monitor, support and inform the public health actions we are taking while no longer providing a running commentary of individual cases, or individual deaths.

- The Health Secretary Matt Hancock hosted today's Downing Street press conference during which he announced:
 - o The NHS Nightingale Hospital, based at London's Excel Centre will open with a 4,000 bed capacity.
 - o Recruitment of 250,000 NHS volunteers.
 - o More than 11,500 retired medics are returning to work, including 2,660 doctors and 6,147 nurses.
 - o More than 18,000 medical students will join the NHS workforce.

- A £500 million Hardship Fund will provide council tax relief to help vulnerable people and households most affected by coronavirus. More details are available [online](#).

- PHE has tailored Every Mind Matters to provide advice and tips on how to manage anxiety during social distancing and isolation. People can find guidance, advice and tips on how to maintain mental wellbeing while at home or are worried and anxious about the outbreak is the [NHS site](#). Partners can signpost people to the website using Every Mind Matters assets on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#).

- New campaign assets for 'Stay home, save lives' will be added to the Campaign Resource Centre tomorrow morning. Further information will be shared in tomorrow's update.

- The [public information campaign](#) is continually updated with a variety of digital, social and print materials available on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#) (CRC).
- Guidance has been updated to provide advice for [households with possible infection, staying at home and away from others](#), and [protecting vulnerable people \(shielding\)](#). Latest PHE guidance can be found [here](#).
- Any further guidance to support schools and educational settings remaining open for children of key workers will be published [here](#).
- DfE has set up a [helpline](#) offering guidance for anyone with education related questions.
- Follow us on Twitter: @PHE_SouthEast

Other guidance material and useful links:

- Stay Home, Save Lives - public information materials - now available on the Campaign Resource Centre <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-resources/4992>
- Every Mind Matters - <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-anxiety-tips/>