

COVID-19 National and Local Timeline during 2020

- New Coronavirus identified in Wuhan, China – *January 2020*
- World Health Organization announces the name of the new disease as COVID-19 – *11th February 2020*
- Public awareness campaign begun for frequently washing hands for 20 seconds in a bid to reduce the spread of the disease – *4th March 2020*
- COVID-19 added to the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010 as a notifiable disease in law and SARS-COV-2 as the notifiable cause – *5th March 2020*
- First Coronavirus death recorded in England – *6th March 2020*
- PM Boris Johnson holds Press Conference on Coronavirus and sets out a four-part government action plan: Contain; Delay; Research and Mitigate – *9th March 2020*
- Daily press conferences by PM and senior Ministers to begin from Monday 16th March to ensure clarity and transparency of information to the public -*15th March 2020*
- Statement in House of Commons by Matt Hancock advises anyone with symptoms of high temperature or a new and continuous cough to stay at home for 14 days. Everyone should restrict their social contact with others and if possible, work from home – *16th March 2020*
- The Foreign and Commonwealth Office advise against all non-essential international travel – *17th March 2020*
- Schools, nurseries and colleges to close, except for vulnerable children and for children of key workers.
Entertainment, hospitality and indoor leisure premises to close from end of trading hours.
Examinations including A levels, GCSEs and all primary assessments are cancelled. A calculated grade will be given by the exam boards based on teacher evaluations and other data – *20th March 2020*
- Those considered particularly vulnerable must be shielded and remain at home for 12 weeks, multiple support measures put in place to achieve this.
Social distancing measure is set at 2 metres apart – *22nd March 2020*

- Closure of all shops selling non-essential goods.
Libraries, playgrounds outdoor gyms and places of worship to close immediately.
Stoppage of social events including weddings, baptisms and other ceremonies (excluding funerals).
All gatherings of more than 2 people to cease in public (excluding those from your household).
Government investment in 6 new coronavirus research projects, including 2 focused on vaccination trials and developing manufacturing processes to produce vaccine at a million dose scale.
All British tourists and short-stay travellers currently abroad are advised to return to UK – *23rd March 2020*
- Government core policy is to: Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives – *25th March 2020*
- Tribute to NHS and care workers begins with a doorstep ‘Clap for Carers’ at 8pm - *26th March 2020*
- PM Boris Johnson announces he is self-isolating after testing positive for COVID-19 – *27th March 2020*
- Approval of an adapted Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device that delivers oxygen to the lungs without needing a ventilator – *31st March 2020*
- Plan to increase coronavirus testing to 100,000 a day across the UK – *2nd April 2020*
- National Supply Distribution Response Team established to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to those in need of it: NHS Trusts, GP and dental practices, community pharmacies, care homes, hospices and home-care providers.
Postponement until May 2021 of local by-elections – *6th April 2020*
- PM Boris Johnson admitted to intensive care in a London hospital – *7th April 2020*
- First of 3 Lighthouse Labs opens at Milton Keynes to vastly increase the number of coronavirus tests that can take place each day – *9th April 2020*
- Following advice from SAGE, the Government set out 5 conditions that must be met before current restrictions can be lifted:
 - 1). We must protect the NHS’s ability to cope
 - 2). Need to see a sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates to ensure we are beyond the peak
 - 3). Need reliable data from SAGE showing a decrease in the infection rate across the board

4). To be confident that operational challenges: including testing capacity and PPE can meet future demand

5). We do not risk a second peak of infections that would overwhelm the NHS – *16th April 2020*

- Vaccine Taskforce set up to research and produce a coronavirus vaccine – *17th April 2020*
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) goes live. Employers can go online to claim up to 80% of workers wages. Capped at £2,500 per month per worker – *20th April 2020*
- PM Boris Johnson returns to work after recovering from coronavirus – *27th April 2020*
- Public Health England introduces a more complete daily count for COVID-19 deaths in all settings where there has been a positive test – *29th April 2020*
- PM Boris Johnson confirms we are “past the peak” of the first phase of COVID-19 – *30th April 2020*
- To find and isolate the virus, ‘Track and Trace’ to be introduced, firstly as a trial on the Isle of Wight, then to the rest of the country – *4th May 2020*
- Following advice from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), the government now advises using a face covering when using public transport or when in enclosed public spaces.
New COVID Alert Level System established with five levels to monitor ongoing progress – *11th May 2020*
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme extended till October (furloughed workers in UK will continue to receive 80% of their salary) – *12th May 2020*
- Individuals should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough or fever or a changed sense of smell or taste (anosmia) – *18th May 2020*
- Initial ‘NHS Test and Trace’ contact tracing system goes live - *28th May 2020*
- Reopening of nurseries and some years of primary schools: reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Outdoor markets can also reopen, all dependant on being COVID-19 secure
Up to 6 people from different households allowed to meet outside as long as they maintain 2 metres distance apart – *1st June 2020*
- International arrivals now required to self-isolate for 14 days – *8th June 2020*

- Secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges can begin to provide some face-to-face contact time for Year 10 and 12 and for groups in further education.
Non-essential retail can reopen under COVID-19 secure guidelines.
For adults living alone or single parents with children under 18, they can form a 'Support Bubble' whereby they can mix with individuals from one other household.
Face coverings to be mandatory when using public transport - *15th June 2020*
- Successful clinical trial of the drug dexamethasone which now becomes part of the standard treatment for hospitalised COVID-19 patients on oxygen or ventilators – *16th June 2020*
- Premier League football returns but without spectators – *17th June 2020*
- Pubs, restaurants, hairdressers and some leisure facilities can reopen if adhering to COVID-19 Secure guidelines (except for the area of Leicester)
Localised lockdown in Leicester, restrictions imposed – *4th July 2020*
- Travel corridors set up for members of countries exempt from 14 day isolation period on arrival – *10th July 2020*
- Outdoor performances of music, dance and theatre resume for socially distanced audiences – *11th July 2020*
- In England, face coverings become compulsory in shops and some enclosed public places - *24th July 2020*
- Indoor gyms, swimming pools and sports facilities to reopen (if conforming to guidance) - *25th July 2020*
- New slogan 'Hands. Face. Space' introduced to sustain important advice – *9th September 2020*
- New COVID-19 walk-through testing site opens in the car park opposite Huyton Library – *11th September 2020*
- Government introduces the 'Rule of 6.' Individuals must not meet socially indoors or outdoors in groups of more than six – *14th September 2020*
- Merseyside, Warrington, Halton and Lancashire enter new local restrictions:
Residents are not to socialise with other people outside of their household (or support bubble) in private homes and gardens.
Hospitality services of food and drink to be restricted to table service only.
Leisure and entertainment venues including pubs, restaurants and cinemas to close between 10pm and 5am.
Public transport only to be used for essential purposes – *22nd September 2020*

- A new version of the NHS contact-tracing 'app' available for download - *24th September 2020*
- Growing case numbers of COVID-19 brings Knowsley Borough together with the wider Liverpool City Region into Tier 3 restrictions (the highest level).
Households not allowed to mix indoors or in most outdoor settings.
In some public outdoor spaces, groups to be limited to the rule of six.
Pubs and bars must close, unless they are serving substantial meals.
Strongly advised not to travel in and out of the area.
Knowsley Borough reaches a peak of 630 cases per 100,000 population in the over 60s - *14th October 2020*
- Due to the spread of COVID-19, 2nd National Lockdown begins - *5th November 2020*
- Whole city testing using new rapid turnaround tests launched in the Liverpool area – *6th November 2020*
- Vaccine producer Pfizer/BioNTech announces 90% efficacy in their COVID-19 vaccine study. Approval is required from the regulator before rollout can begin – *9th November 2020*
- UK reaches a total of over 50,000 COVID-19 deaths – *11th November 2020*
- Biotech company Moderna publishes efficacy results of nearly 95% from its Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccine study. Approval is required from regulator before rollout can begin – *16th November 2020*
- New COVID-19 testing site opens at Stockbridge Village Neighbourhood Centre, The Withens – *19th November 2020*
- 2nd National Lockdown period ends
Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19 approved by the government for use in UK following the recommendation from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) - *2nd December 2020*
- Knowsley Borough enters Tier 2 restrictions - *3rd December 2020*
- Coventry grandmother Margaret Keenan, aged 90, becomes the first person in the world to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as mass vaccinations begin in UK.
COVID-19 testing sites for people with no symptoms open at Volair Leisure Centres: at Bailey's Lane, Halewood; Longview Drive, Huyton and Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby - *8th December 2020*
- Self-isolation period reduced from 14 days to 10 days.
New variant of coronavirus identified, possibly more infectious - *14th December 2020*

- London, parts of Essex and Hertfordshire move into Tier 3 restrictions – *16th December 2020*
- London, parts of Essex and Hertfordshire move into a new Tier 4 ‘Stay at Home’ category with further restrictions due to the spread of the new virus variant. Plans amended for the Christmas period: the original plan for 3 households to be able to meet over five days is now amended to meet on Christmas Day only – *19th December 2020*
- Another more transmissible variant of the virus is detected in UK with links to South Africa - *23rd December 2020*
- The United Kingdom and European Union agree a post-Brexit Trade and Cooperation Agreement, a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and an Agreement on Security Procedures for Exchanging and Protecting Classified Information - *24th December 2020*
- Many more areas in the East, South East and South West of England added to Tier 4 – *26th December 2020*
- Vaccine developed by Oxford University/AstraZeneca given regulatory approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for use in people of 18 years and above. Vaccine to be administered in two doses, the second dose administered 4-12 weeks after the first. Transportation and storage of the vaccine to be between 2° and 8° and for a period of up to six months – *30th December 2020*
- The Liverpool City Region (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral and St Helens) to move to Tier 3: Very High category from New Year’s Eve – *31st December 2020*

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