

Covid-19 Historic updates from UK Government, TIER (Tourism Industry Emergency Response Group) & VisitBritain/VisitEngland

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HISTORIC VISITBRITAIN/VISITENGLAND BRIEFINGS up to 25/03/2020

Weds 25 March 2020

Join VisitBritain/VisitEngland's marketing response

VisitBritain/VisitEngland has launched a social marketing campaign to keep Britain top of visitors' minds during international and UK travel bans. The campaign aims to share inspirational content based on popular British culture such as recipes, TV and film shows, literature and more, for people to enjoy in their own homes. [Find out how to get involved](#)

COVID-19 tourism industry impact survey

VisitBritain/VisitEngland has modified and [reopened their tracker survey](#), they will be conducting it regularly to monitor the impact on all aspects of the UK tourism industry. The results will provide impact data to brief Ministers, the Government and COBR to help support the industry through these challenging times. Please circulate the survey to your members. The survey will close 17.00 Monday 30 March.

Tuesday 24 March 2020

1. [We have added a new section on the Business Advice Hub](#) dedicated to supporting tourism and event businesses affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

2. [Join our new social marketing activity](#) to remind visitors of Britain with inspirational content including recipes, film and TV, literature and more.
3. [See all Covid-19 updates for businesses](#)

Monday 23 March 2020

COVID-19 tourism industry impact survey

VisitBritain/VisitEngland has modified and reopened their tracker survey, they will be conducting it regularly to monitor the impact on all aspects of the UK tourism industry. The results will provide impact data to brief Ministers, the Government and COBR to help support the industry through these challenging times. The survey will close 17.00 Monday 30 March. You can complete the survey here; [Covid-19 Tourism Industry Impact Survey](#)

VisitEngland has [launched a page on their Business Advice Hub](#) offering advice for tourism and event businesses affected by COVID-19.

Wednesday 18th March 2020

VisitBritain are continuing to chase the UK Government advice for tourism businesses and will share as soon as it is available.

VisitBritain/VisitEngland is refocusing their marketing activity in the light of COVID-19. On their social media channels they will be sharing content focused on five themes linked to popular British culture designed to help consumers beat the boredom and frustration (including quizzes and trivia), destinations and businesses are invited to join the conversation on social media. [Find out more on the VB website.](#)

HISTORIC TOURISM INDUSTRY EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP UPDATES (TIER) up to 19/03/2020

Thursday 19th March 2020

The Minister for Tourism was present at the TIER Group meeting held today and keen to understand the impacts on the sector following the Chancellor's announcement earlier this week, as well as to understand what the Government could do to provide further support.

There were three key themes that were identified as crucial for the next stage:

1. A clear and inclusive definition of the business types that make up the tourism industry so that Government reliefs/schemes are available to all constituents of the sector
2. Increased measures to alleviate as much of the cost burden to businesses as possible, including support for wage costs
3. An ask for greater clarity on the details of the support for businesses and when it will be available in future announcements.

Tuesday 17th March 2020

A meeting of the Tourism Industry Council was held on 17th March 2020 led by the Secretary of State and attended by a number of industry reps (including ALVA, UKinbound, UK Hospitality, ABTA, Hilton Hotels).

Key asks of Government raised at the TIER meeting reiterated points calling for urgent/immediate action as follows:

- Long-term relief on business rates, PAYE, VAT
- Salary and redundancy support
- Measures from banks
- Urgent access to funds
- Budget measures for SMEs to be extended to medium and large businesses
- Support for landlords to look at sensibly phased payment schedules
- Mandatory closure to help with insurance for some parts of the sector (e.g. theatres and attractions)
- Tourism business advice and clarity on definitions

The Secretary of State confirmed that these will be fed into the Chancellor.

HISTORIC SITUATION UPDATES up to 26/03/2020

Thursday 26 March 2020

1. As of 26 March, 1,809 further people in England have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases in England to 9,782. The total for the UK now stands at 11,658, which includes 894 in Scotland, 741 cases in Wales and 241 in Northern Ireland. A total of 104,866 people have been tested across the UK.
2. To see the number of cases of COVID-19 in England and the UK [visit the Public Health England dashboard](#).
3. As of 26 March globally there has been 455,085 cases including: China 81,285, Italy 74,386, Republic of Korea 9,241, Iran 27,017, France 24,920, Germany 36,508, Spain 47,610 Japan 1,193, USA 54,367 UK 11,658, Switzerland 9,765, Netherlands 6,412, with 20,798 fatalities globally
4. The World Health Organisation has a [global map that reports daily on the global cases](#).

Tuesday 24 March 2020

1. As of 09:00 24 March 2020, a total of 90,436 people have been tested with 8,077 confirmed as positive.
2. As of 24 March, 1,258 further people in England have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases in England to 6,843. The total for the UK now stands at 8,077, which includes 584 in Scotland, 478 cases in Wales, and 172 in Northern Ireland.
3. [To see the number of cases of COVID-19 in England and the UK visit the Public Health England dashboard](#).
4. As of 23 March globally there has been 356,961 cases including: China 81,171, Italy 63,927, Republic of Korea 9,037, Iran 23,049, France 19,615, Germany 27,436, Spain 33,089 Japan 1,128, USA 33,386 UK 8,077, Switzerland 8,060, Netherlands 4,749, with 16,315 fatalities globally and total of 13,038 fatalities have occurred outside of Mainland China.
5. [The World Health Organisation has a global map that reports daily on the global cases](#).

Monday 23 March 2020

1. As of 09:00 23 March 2020, a total of 83,945 people have been tested. As of 09:00 23 March 2020, 6,650 confirmed as positive, there have been 335 confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in the UK.
2. As of 23 March, The total number of lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the UK is 6,650 which includes 5,585 cases in England, 499 in Scotland, 418 in Wales, and 148 in Northern Ireland
3. To see the number of cases of COVID-19 in England and the UK [visit the Public Health England dashboard](#).
4. As of 23 March globally there has been 315,412 cases including: China 81,093, Italy 59,138, Republic of Korea 8,961, Iran 21,638, France 15,810, Germany

22,672, Spain 28,572 Japan 1,046, USA 15,268 UK 6,650, Switzerland 7,014, Netherlands 4,204, with 14,018 fatalities globally and total of 10,748 fatalities have occurred outside of Mainland China.

5. The World Health Organisation has a [global map that reports daily on the global cases](#).

Thursday 19 March 2020

1. As of 19 March, 574 further people in England have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases in England to 2,756. The total for the UK now stands at 3,229, which includes 226 in Scotland, 170 cases in Wales, and 77 in Northern Ireland. there have been 144 confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in the UK.
2. To see the number of cases of COVID-19 in England and the UK [visit the Public Health England dashboard](#)
3. As of 19 March globally there has been 211,781 cases, China 80,928, Italy 35,713, Republic of Korea 8,565, Iran 17,361, France 9,043, Germany 8,198, Spain 13,716, Japan 914, USA 7,087, UK 3,229, Switzerland 2,650, Netherlands 2,051, with 8,879 fatalities
4. A total of 5,594 fatalities have occurred outside of Mainland China, in 60 countries.
5. [The World Health Organisation has a global map](#) that reports daily on the number of global cases
6. The National Health commission of the People's republic of China has reported that [no new cases were confirmed in Wuhan on 18 March](#)

Wednesday 18 March 2020

1. As of 9am on 18 March 2020, 56,221 people have been tested in the UK, of which 53,595 were confirmed negative and 2,626 were confirmed positive.
2. As of 18 March, 625 further people in England have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of lab confirmed cases in England to 2,182. The total for the UK now stands at 2,626, which includes 227 in Scotland, 149 cases in Wales, and 68 in Northern Ireland.
3. [To see the number of cases of COVID-19 in England and the UK visit the Public Health England dashboard](#)
4. As of 18 March globally there has been 190,532 cases, China 80,894, Italy 31,506, Republic of Korea 8,413, Iran 16,169, France 7,652, Germany 7,156, Spain 11,178, Japan 873, USA 4,226, UK 2,182, Switzerland 2,650, Netherlands 1,705, with 7,902 fatalities
5. A total of 4,665 fatalities have occurred outside of Mainland China, in 54 countries.
6. [The World Health Organisation has a global map that reports daily on the number of global cases](#)
7. [The UK Government have updated their guidance for employees, employers and businesses](#), it includes information on healthcare advice for employers and support for businesses.

8. [The Foreign Commonwealth Office has updated it's travel advice](#) to avoid all non-essential international travel this is for an initial period of 30 days and effective immediately
9. As all hotels in Spain will be closing on 24 March, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has updated it advice for all British travellers in Spain advising them to contact their tour operator or airline as soon as possible, to arrange their return journey before the closure.

HISTORIC GOVERNMENT ADVICE AND LINKS up to 26/03/2020

Thursday 26 March 2020

1. [New guidance for food businesses has been added to Gov.uk.](#) The guidance includes need to know information about coronavirus and food, food hygiene guidance, managing employee sickness, social distancing and maintaining social distancing in specific food business settings.
2. Further updates and guidance have been added to the [businesses and premises to close page](#) on Gov.uk
3. [A new HMRC helpline has been launched to help businesses concerned about paying their tax](#) due to coronavirus (COVID-19). The helpline allows any business or self-employed individual who is concerned about paying their tax due to coronavirus to get practical help and advice. Up to 2,000 experienced call handlers are available to support businesses and individuals when needed. The new number is: 0800 024 1222.
4. Foreign Secretary [Dominic Raab gave a statement after the G7 Foreign Ministers meeting today](#) saying International co-operation only way to get travellers home and beat coronavirus.
5. [A Letter from the Minister for Local Government and Homelessness, Luke Hall, to hotel chief executives](#) regarding the exemption for hotels, hostels and B&Bs to open so as to offer accommodation to support key workers and vulnerable people was sent on 24 March.

Wednesday 25 March 2020

1. There has been [further guidance issued on businesses and premises to close](#). Guidance has been added for work carried out in people's homes and additional details to the list of businesses and premises that must remain closed.
2. From 25 March [businesses will be given an additional 3 months to file accounts](#) with Companies House to help companies avoid penalties as they deal with the impact of COVID-19.
 - As part of the agreed measures, companies will still have to apply for the 3-month extension to be granted, those citing issues around COVID-19 will be automatically and immediately granted an extension. Applications can be made through a fast-tracked online system which will take just 15 minutes to complete.

3. The Home Office has published [new guidance on immigration provisions for individuals affected by travel restrictions associated with coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Home Office is providing visa extensions for those affected by coronavirus. Nobody will be penalised for circumstances outside of their control.
4. The Coronavirus Immigration Helpline remains open. Customers are asked to check gov.uk first as that is the central source of information, but if individuals remain concerned about their immigration status they can contact the helpline at: CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk
5. The UK Government has today [launched a GOV.UK Coronavirus Information service on WhatsApp](#).
6. Coronavirus (COVID-19): [update on guidance on business support grant funding](#). The update details hereditaments that were not eligible for percentage SBRR relief (including those eligible for the Small Business Rate Multiplier) are excluded.
7. [The Business rates: expanded retail discount guidance has been updated](#) to cover certain properties previously excluded from the relief, but that have been forced to close as a result of coronavirus restrictions, will now be eligible for the relief.
8. [A Joint letter to the UK banks from HM Treasury, the Bank of England, and the FCA](#): A letter from the Chancellor, the Governor of the Bank of England, and the CEO of the FCA to the CEOs of the UK Banks on the subject of COVID-19 and bank lending.

Tuesday 24 March 2020

1. [Guidance on the closure of all non-essential businesses and premises](#) as part of further social distancing measures. This directive applies to any business providing holiday accommodation including short-term lets such as hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, boarding houses and caravan sites.
2. The Government has issued [guidance and advice for those providing hotel and other accommodation](#) in the UK. An exception has been made for key workers, who can continue to stay in hotels or similar where required, and for people living in these premises as interim abodes whilst their primary residence is unavailable. Where people live permanently in caravan parks, or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their primary residence is not available, they may also continue to do so.
3. Restaurants and catering outlets providing takeaway or delivery services can remain open.
4. [Where hotels, hostels, and B&Bs are providing rooms to support homeless people, through arrangements with local authorities and other public bodies, they should remain open](#).
5. [The COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility is now open](#). Information for businesses in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has also been added.
6. Updates to the [Guidance for UK businesses trading internationally](#), including a business support helpline.

7. Updated guidance has been released which sets out details of [eligibility and delivery of the Small Business Grants Fund \(SBGF\) and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund \(RHLGF\)](#).
8. [Extra protection has been announced for commercial tenants](#) to protect them from eviction if they are unable to pay rent because of coronavirus.
9. [New guidance on staying at home and away from others has been released](#) – the guidance covers staying at home, closing non-essential shops and public spaces, stopping public gatherings and delivering these new measures.

Monday 23 March 2020

1. The Government released a [statement confirming that visits to second homes, camp sites, caravan parks etc. do not constitute essential travel](#). They advise people to stay in their primary residence to limit pressure on services.
2. The UK Government has [launched a Coronavirus Business Support website](#) that highlights all the support measures that have been made available to UK businesses and employees. The website helps businesses find out how to access the support, who is eligible, when the schemes open and how to apply.
3. The ['Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme' is now open](#).
4. The UK Government has [published advice for businesses and other venues subject to further social distancing measures](#) the page includes information on length of closure, compliance, financial support, business support, business rates and further information.
5. [Updated guidance on what to do if you have a suspected case of COVID-19 in your household](#) has been published by the UK Government.
6. The UK Government has [updated the guidance for businesses page with the Bank of England's eligibility criteria for COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility](#).
7. Rail services will be reduced from today, Monday 23 March and kept under review.
8. The Transport Secretary has confirmed that they are offering the opportunity for [train operators to transition into 'Emergency Measures Agreements' for a period of six months \(this can be extended\)](#), which will suspend normal financial mechanisms of franchise agreements and transfer all revenue and cost risk to the Government. These measures will ensure services operate for key workers, and minimise disruption to the rail sector in the long term.
9. [TfL has suspended all road user charging schemes to help critical workers](#). These include: Congestion Charge, Ultra Low Emission Zone and Low Emission Zone suspended from today Monday 23 March until further notice to support critical workers. Londoners are asked not to travel unless it is absolutely necessary and to keep roads clear. NHS staff are also to be given free access to Santander Cycles
10. The Enforcement of Business Closures - The legal requirement forcing listed businesses to close (restaurants, pubs etc) came into force on 21st March. 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. This fines for non-compliance are unlimited. [Click here for details.](#)

11. Permission for Pubs and Restaurants to Operate as Takeaways - The government is introducing a time limited permitted development right through secondary legislation (negative SI) to allow the temporary change of use of a pub (A4 - drinking establishment) and a restaurant (A3 – restaurants and cafes) to a hot-food take away for a period of up to 12 months. [Click here for further information](#)
12. New Government Structures to Coordinate Response to Coronavirus - As mentioned last week, COBRA have set up a series of sub-committees to focus on different aspects of the outbreak. These are:
13. Healthcare: chaired by the Health Secretary to focus on the preparedness of the NHS, notably ensuring capacity in the critical care system for those worst affected, the medical and social package of support for those to whom we will be providing the new shielding regime.
14. General Public Sector: chaired by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to look at preparedness across the rest of the public and critical national infrastructure, excluding the NHS
15. Economic and Business: chaired by the Chancellor, with the Business Secretary as deputy chair, to consider economic and business impact and response, including supply chain resilience. It will also coordinate roundtables with key sectors to be chaired by relevant Secretaries of State
16. International: chaired by the Foreign Secretary, to consider our international response to the crisis through the G7, G20 and other mechanisms, including like-minded groups, and the UK five-point plan
17. Tourism is represented on Economic and Business sub-committee by the Culture Secretary with the Tourism Industry Council being the roundtable for the Sector that feeds-in. [Click here for further information on new government structures to coordinate responses.](#)

Friday 20th March 2020

1. [The UK Government has published a COVID-19 page which details the support available for businesses.](#) Key information on the page includes: paying sick pay to employees, business rates, Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, larger firms through the COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility, Time to Pay service, Insurance
2. [The Treasury has published guidance](#) for Local Authorities on the Expanded Retail Discount 2020/21: Coronavirus Response, which sets out in more detail what is meant by 'leisure, hospitality and retail' when referring to the business rate holiday and other schemes
3. The UK Government has published a [summary of impacts relating to the Coronavirus Bill](#)
4. The Bank of England and the Treasury are working to launch the COVID Corporate Financing Facility. [An outline of the scheme can be found on the website](#)

5. [The Bank of England has cut Bank Rate to 0.1%](#)
6. Following the UK Government's announcement of increased measures to delay transmission, further [guidance on social distancing has been published](#)

HISTORIC UK GOVERNMENT DAILY BRIEFING SUMMARIES up to 26/06/2020

Thursday 26 March 2020

1. The Chancellor announced details of [financial support for the self employed](#):
2. The self-employed will receive a direct cash grant of 80% of their average profits, up to £2,500 per month
3. The scheme is open to anyone with average profits of £50,000 or less.
4. The scheme will operate for three months initially but could be extended
5. The system will take time to establish and grants won't be available until June – at which time those eligible will receive a payment for the whole three month period. So in effect, this will be a one-off grant to the self-employed
6. HMRC will use the average trading profits from tax returns in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 to determine the size of the grant. For those without 3 years of returns, the Treasury will look at what they do have but there will be nothing for the newly self-employed without any filed accounts.

Wednesday 25 March 2020

1. In today's Government update the Prime Minister did not announce any further measures, instead giving a short update followed by Q&A.
2. The Prime Minister reiterated the need to delay the spread of the disease in order to limit pressure on the NHS.
3. He thanked the NHS, and those that have been following the guidelines.
4. He provided an update on the NHS Volunteer Appeal, 405,000 have responded so far. These people will be transporting medicine, transporting patients from hospital, and making calls to check on vulnerable people at home.
5. The PM confirmed that the Chancellor will be making announcements on Self-Employed measures tomorrow.
6. Questioned on testing, Chris Whitty confirmed that the anti-gen test system is working well in hospitals. Testing NHS and Critical Workers who are self-isolating is the next priority, although there is a global demand for these tests and therefore a shortage. After that the next stage would be testing people more widely with mild symptoms. Finally, the anti-body test is being evaluated this week but is not quite available yet.

Tuesday 24 March 2020

1. The Health Secretary Matt Hancock gave the daily briefing from the Government along with Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Jenny Harries. It follows a further 87 UK COVID-19 deaths bringing the total up to 422. it was a virtual press

conference with journalists asking questions by video conference. Below are some of the key takeaways:

2. He re-iterated that the social distancing measures are a directive and not a request.
3. Today the Government is launching NHS volunteers – a call for 250,000 thousand volunteers for shopping and delivery of medicines for at risk individuals.
4. Almost 12,000 former NHS doctors and nurses have returned.
5. 5,500 final year medical doctor students and 18,700 final year student nurses are being mobilised.
6. In total this means over 35,000 additional staff are available to the NHS.
7. Next week new temporary hospital is being create. HHS Nightingale at the Excel Centre will have two wards of 2,000 people.

Thursday 19th March 2020

1. The Government held the fourth of its new daily briefings on the UK approach to tackling COVID 19. The Prime Minister, CMO and CSA gave today's brief. The Prime Minister wanted to give an idea of timescales.
2. The Prime Minister believes that COVID19 can be brought under control in the next 12 weeks.
3. They are in the process of buying an antibody test for COVID 19 that will give an idea of who has had the disease and is therefore resistant to it in the future. It will help improve the management of the disease.
4. Reiterated the need to follow the PHE advice on social distancing.
5. We will hear more in the next day or so about further support for business and the PM asked businesses to standby their employees as the Government would standby businesses.
6. Laura Kuanssberg asked if the government would ban pubs opening. The PM said that they would only introduce further measures if the current approach doesn't work. He believes the current approach is working.
7. The Prime Minister said that further "lockdown" measures of London was not imminent.
8. Chief Scientific Advisor Sir Patrick Vallance says Public Health England is ramping up to 25,000 tests per day for COVID19.
9. The Chancellor will make an announce tomorrow regarding financial support for workers and businesses.

Wednesday 18th March 2020

1. The Government held the third of its new daily briefings on the UK approach to tackling COVID 19. On a Tourism front there was little to update on, as today's announcement focused on the Government's decision to close schools from Friday. Children of 'key workers' will be allowed to go to schools. [A full read out will be available here shortly](#)

2. Many of the wider announcements from today will be part of the Coronavirus Bill (which will be pushed through the house this week). [This guidance outlines the powers the government will receive.](#)

HISTORIC OTHER TRAVEL MEASURES, ADVICE AND UPDATES up to 26/03/2020

Thursday 26 March 2020

1. [London City Airport](#) has announced that it is temporarily suspending its commercial and private flights from the airport. This began last evening Wednesday 25 March and is expected to last until the end of April. This will be kept under review.
2. [Gatwick Airport remains open but with limited passenger facilities.](#) Rail and coach services are also reduced. Customers are advised to check the latest flight information with their airline.
3. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) have called on [innovators and entrepreneurs to put forward new solutions to help the tourism sector recover from COVID-19.](#)

Wednesday 25 March 2020

1. MOT update: [The UK Government has announced that vehicle owners will be granted a six-month exemption from MOT testing,](#) enabling them to continue to travel to work where this absolutely cannot be done from home, or shop for necessities. All cars, vans and motorcycles which usually would require a MOT test will be exempted from needing a test from 30 March 2020. Vehicles must be kept in a roadworthy condition, and garages will remain open for essential repair work. Drivers can be prosecuted if driving unsafe vehicles.
2. Transport for London (TfL): [TfL announced today that it is taking targeted measures to control the flow of passengers at the stations that remain the busiest.](#) This includes reducing the flow at the gate lines with the support of the 500 British Transport Police who are now deployed across the rail network, opening different routes to platforms and turning off down escalators to slow the flow of people to platforms.

Monday 23 March 2020

1. [easyjet:](#) has announced that it is grounding the majority of its aircraft from Tuesday 24 March, following the number of government restrictions and travel advice across its network. The airline will run rescue flights to repatriate passengers where it can.
2. [UK Hospitality:](#) Has updated its [interim guidance for accommodation providers,](#) recommending that that no new leisure guests be accepted and that existing guests should consider whether they need to vacate if they can.

3. The German Foreign Office has extended the warning against all global travel until at least the end of April
4. In Italy, the Government has extended the lockdown until 15 April.
5. The Spanish Government has announced the State of Emergency will be extended until 11 April
6. Effective as of 23 March, Spain has closed its EU borders

Thursday 19th March 2020

1. VisitBritain has announced the postponement of both [MeetGB](#) and [ExploreGBNI](#)
2. The International Passenger Survey has been paused due to the difficulty of collecting data at airports
3. [In a joint statement from the Football Association, Premier league and the English Football League](#) it has been announced that the season has been extended but all professional games are postponed to a 30 April at the earliest
4. [The Hong Kong Government](#) has instructed all arrivals from foreign countries to self-isolate for 14 days, effective as of 19 March
5. [The Australian Government](#) has announced that only citizens, residents and family members will be allowed to travel into the country
6. [No international flights will be allowed to land in India](#) for seven days, commencing 22 March
7. [Transport for London](#) has announced that it is running a reduced service to enable London's critical workers to make essential journeys. Some bus services will also be reduced.
8. [British Airways](#): States that it is working around the clock to help its customers get to where they need to be or rearrange their travel plans. It is advising that it has put a number of measures in place to ensure customers can book with confidence with British Airways. To allow greater flexibility customers can change the destination, date of travel, or both for free, on all new bookings made from Tuesday 3 March to Sunday 31 May 2020, as well as any existing bookings that depart up to Sunday 31 May 2020. [Find out more.](#)
9. [easyJet travel advice](#) – Its update today states that it is reacting to individual country restrictions. Information re: [rescue flights is available on its website here](#): It recommends people wishing to make free changes to their bookings do so on the website
10. [RyanAir](#) – is advising customers considering travel that all Government travel restrictions must be followed. It has a [Travel Advisory page for more information on country-specific restrictions](#). Its flight schedules have been hugely disrupted by these Government restrictions and will be subject to further cuts:
11. From 24:00 hrs Wed 18 March until 24:00 hrs Tue 24 March, Ryanair Group Airlines will cut flight schedules by over 80%. All affected customers will receive an email to advise them of their options and customers are asked not to call them as its call centres are overloaded dealing with customer queries.
12. From 24:00 hrs Tue 24 Mar it expects that most if not all Ryanair Group flights will be grounded, except for a very small number of flights to maintain essential connectivity, mostly between the UK and Ireland. Details of the severely reduced

schedule can be found on the Travel Advisory page on the Ryanair.com website, which will be updated regularly.

13. [DFDS](#) is suspending its Newcastle-Amsterdam ferry service this weekend until at least April 13. The last sailing from Amsterdam will be on March 21 and the last from Newcastle on March 22.
14. [Brittany Ferries](#) is implementing further schedule changes in light of recent announcements to protect both passengers and crew. [These are detailed on its Sailing updates](#). Its Contact Centre is also experiencing exceptionally high call volumes so it is recommended to only call if customers are booked to sail within the next 72 hours.
15. Some train operators will be running reduced timetables across several routes due to COVID-19 Please check with individual train operators: [Northern](#) & [TransPennine Express](#)

Wednesday 18th March 2020

1. Australian PM Scott Morrison declared a human biosecurity emergency. [For the first time in Australian history, the Australian Government has raised the travel advice to the highest level:](#) Do not travel
2. Japanese Foreign Ministry has issued a level two travel warning for Britain and Ireland- avoid unnecessary travel
3. [The Dutch Foreign Ministry is advising against all non-essential outbound travel](#) and has raised the travel advice for all countries to 'orange'.
4. [Brussels Airways has temporarily suspended their flight operations](#) from Saturday, 21 March until 19 April 2020 included.
5. [Air New Zealand will be reducing its long haul capacity](#) by 85% over the coming months, including suspending its London-Los Angeles service from 20 March (ex LAX) and 21 March (ex LHR) through to 30 June. It is suspending 13 Australia routes and its Pacific Island network and domestic capacity will reduce significantly.
6. [Glastonbury Festival 2020 has been cancelled.](#)