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## COVID-19 Member Update

31 March 2020

### Summary

The UK's lockdown went into its second week on Monday, with Government announcements last night suggesting the majority of people are now practicing social distancing and following Government guidance.

Below is a summary of the day's events, as well as the work ukactive is taking to represent more than 4,000 members across the physical activity sector.

### Government Press Conference

Yesterday's daily press conference saw Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab outline the latest actions taken by Government to support UK nationals abroad in light of increased lockdown measures around the world. He was accompanied by Chief Scientific Adviser Sir Patrick Vallance and Public Health England Medical Director Dr Yvonne Doyle who spoke about the UK's preparedness to continue dealing with the coronavirus crisis on the medical side. Key highlights included:

- The Foreign Secretary stated that Government has been deliberate in its actions from the start, implementing the right measures at the right time and taking unprecedented action to increase NHS capacity to give people the care they need.
- Mr Raab highlighted that the repatriation of UK nationals stranded abroad constitutes a top priority for Government. Starting this week, chartered planes will be sent to a number of priority areas to ensure that UK nationals who are unable to return home through commercial routes can be brought home at the earliest opportunity. The UK Government is working with countries around the world to ensure that critical transit hubs remain open while people return home.
- Sir Patrick Vallance stated there was encouraging data around travel and footfall which shows that the UK population is adhering to social distancing measures. Medical experts are seeing a dramatic reduction in contact, which is expected to have a positive effect on the number of new cases in the next 2 to 3 weeks.
- Government continues to ramp up testing efforts across the healthcare workforce. The distribution of personal protective equipment is also due to improve over the next couple



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of weeks, with a significant amount of Government resource going into ensuring that medical staff have access to the equipment they need.

### **Health Club Management feature on ukactive Today interview**

Health Club Management has published a feature on ukactive CEO Huw Edward's interview with the Today programme on 28 March. Leading with the focus on the "difficult circumstances" the sector was facing, the key takeaway from the article was on the subject of evictions. With many operators facing pressure from landlords on keeping up payments despite seeing revenues drop to zero in many cases, Mr Edwards described the prospect of evictions as "shameful".

The full article is available [here](#).

### **Expected Announcements**

Government announcements are expected to focus primarily on the operational elements of its response, with a focus over the next few days on the UK's testing regime and provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) for NHS staff. With news fewer than 5,000 people were tested in the last 24 hours, despite a pledge to hit 25,000 within a few weeks, the Government will be expected to announce plans to scale up.

There also continues to be concerns over the provision of PPE to NHS staff, as well as nursing homes and care workers. There is growing criticism over the level of protection offered to frontline workers, with the deaths of three healthcare professionals from Covid-19 over the weekend only increasing the pressure.

From a policy perspective, while there are no imminent announcements, Government is still working on potential support for businesses not covered by the current package.

### **Sport England Launch of '10 Today'**

Sport England has teamed up with BBC Sounds and BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Extra to make audio exercise routines available for older people wishing to stay active at home during the coronavirus outbreak. Titled [10 Today](#), each workout involves engaging and easy to follow routines that are accessible and safe, can be done at any time, whether standing up or sitting down, and are adaptable to different fitness levels. The workouts will be available on demand through BBC Sounds and broadcast live on BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Extra.



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10 Today follows the launch of [Join the Movement](#), Sport England's national campaign to encourage and inspire people to be active at home using #StayInWorkOut on social media.

### **ukactive engagement with Government**

ukactive is in constant dialogue with multiple government departments on additional support available for our members. This includes continued engagement with DCMS and MHCLG on issues such as rental payments, and discussions with DfE on continued support for children's activity providers.

All insights gained from this engagement will be fed back to members through the daily briefing. Please contact a member of the ukactive team if you have any specific questions on the above: [publicaffairs@ukactive.org.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@ukactive.org.uk)

You can find all the latest information on what Covid-19 means for the sector as well as guidance and support for your organisation in our newly created Covid-19 [hub](#).