



More people
More active
More often

We are ukactive >

Covid-19 Member Update

Thursday 7 May

Summary

Boris Johnson and opposition leader Sir Keir Starmer went head to head for the first time during yesterday's Prime Minister Question time. Sir Keir pressed the Prime Minister on the UK's record of dealing with the Coronavirus crisis, making international comparisons to find out what went wrong in Britain and how the Government intends to move forward. Boris Johnson hinted that we may see some restrictions eased starting next Monday, 11th May. According to news reports this morning, the first step will be to relax guidance on outdoor activities, with sunbathing, sitting on park benches and limitless exercise to be allowed from Monday onwards - so long as the two-meter social distancing rules are observed. The public is due to find out more on Sunday evening, when the Prime Minister will be delivering his much-anticipated address to the nation.

Below, please find a summary of yesterday's major announcements and events, as well as the steps ukactive is taking to support the physical activity sector.

ukactive unveils framework for reopening

ukactive has today published its recommended framework for reopening the physical activity and leisure sector safely. The framework has been reviewed by independent medical experts and ukactive's Scientific Advisory Board to ensure that fitness and leisure operators base their operational decisions on the best possible scientific evidence and guidance. The document has also been informed by best practice from international markets where the sector is at different stages of managing the COVID-19 pandemic, and is endorsed by the UK's leading operators.

ukactive will use the framework to inform ongoing discussions with the Government on the proposed reopening of the sector, providing the Government with the best insight and expertise from the sector.

The framework will be reviewed regularly and updated where necessary, in accordance with any changes to the Government's guidelines and partners' guidance.

The full framework can be read [here](#).



More people
More active
More often

We are ukactive >

Downing Street press conference announcements

Yesterday's press conference was delivered by Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick, with Public Health Director Professor Yvonne Doyle and Deputy Medical Director for Primary Care at Nhs England Dr Nikki Kanani.

Mr Jenrick began with a focus on what support local authorities have been given, and the work they have done during the pandemic. Key announcements included:

- Mr Jenrick said 69,343 tests had been completed on Wednesday, the fourth successive day the 100,000 target has been missed. Additional fatalities were up 649.
- Mr Jenrick said he was encouraging contractors to begin going back to work where it was safe, ahead of the Prime Minister's address on Sunday. He said he was very aware of the pressure councils were under, due to a loss of income from car parks and leisure centres, and the Government felt the support already given was sufficient to keep them afloat. However, he did admit if further support was needed specifically for coronavirus related support he would consider this.
- Mr Jenrick also said the Government was still committed to its 'levelling up' of the North of England despite the additional expenditure for coronavirus support. He said he was working with councils to increase availability of walking and cycling.
- Local authorities have now paid £8.6 billion in grants to 700,000 businesses, with the first set of grants received by high street small businesses distributed last week.

Whitehall delays revaluation of business rates

The Government has confirmed that the planned revaluation of business rates will no longer take place next year due to Coronavirus. The revaluation has been postponed until April 2022 to give businesses more certainty during the pandemic.

Find out more [here](#).

ukactive and Sport England launch The Mum Moves workouts for pregnant women and new mums



More people
More active
More often

We are ukactive >

ukactive and Sport England have launched a series of This Mum Moves workouts to support pregnant women and new mums to be physically active at home, after 53% reported they have been less physically active since the beginning of lockdown. In order to better support women during the pandemic, ukactive has developed a new website with online workouts reviewed by a panel of experts.

The new workouts form part of the wider Join the Movement #StayInWorkOut campaign, which Sport England launched to inspire the nation to get, or keep, active during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Find out more [here](#).

Over 69,000 Bounce Back Loans approved on the first day

The Government yesterday announced that over 69,000 Bounce Back Loans worth over £2 billion have been approved during the first 24 hours of the scheme. The seven largest lenders received more than 130,000 Bounce Back Loan Scheme applications on the first day of the scheme. Over 69,000 were approved, and lenders are working hard to process and approve the rest as quickly as possible.

Find out more [here](#).

Expected announcements

Dominic Raab is expected to host tonight's Downing Street press conference. No major announcements are expected until the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Sunday evening. There will be an announcement in the House of Commons on Monday, though the Prime Minister has not confirmed he will make it.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak is expected to unveil an update to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme next week, although the timing for this is yet to be confirmed.

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 the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and discussions with the Department for Education on continued support for children's activity providers. Discussions with Treasury over its latest announcements continue.



More people
More active
More often

We are ukactive >

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: 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 ukactive [Covid-19 hub](#).