



11 April 2020

Covid-19: Weeks 11-18

Timeline: 01 March – 11 April 2020

- 4 Mar 2020** Cases of Covid-19 surge in the UK. Officials announce the biggest one-day increase so far. 34 new cases bring the total to 87.
- 10 Mar 2020** 6 people in the UK have now died of the illness, with 373 testing positive.
- 11 Mar 2020
Pandemic Day** The US blocks travel from European countries other than the UK for 30 days, as the WHO declares the virus a pandemic and stock markets plunge.
Chancellor Rishi Sunak announces a £12bn package of emergency support to help the UK cope with the expected onslaught from coronavirus.
- 16 Mar 2020** Boris Johnson begins daily press briefings, urging everybody in the UK to work from home, and to avoid pubs and restaurants to give the NHS time to cope with the pandemic.
The UK's death toll rises to 55, with 1,543 confirmed cases, though it is believed 10,000 people have already been infected.
- 17 Mar 2020** France imposes a nationwide lockdown, prohibiting all gatherings and only allowing people to go out for fresh air. France had more than 6,500 infections with more than 140 deaths.
The EU bars most travellers from outside the bloc for 30 days.
Rishi Sunak unleashes the biggest package of emergency state support for business since the 2008 financial crash. £330bn-worth of government-backed loans and more than £20bn in tax cuts and grants for companies threatened with collapse is unveiled.
- 18 Mar 2020** The UK government announces that most schools across England will be shut down from Friday until further notice. Wales and Scotland announce they will also close schools.
- 19 Mar 2020** For the first time, China reports zero local infections, a milestone in the fight against the pandemic.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 20 Mar 2020 | The UK government orders all pubs, restaurants, gyms and other social venues across the country to close. |
| Furlough | The chancellor announces the government will pay up to 80% of wages for workers at risk of being laid off, to be called furloughing. |
| 23 Mar 2020 | Prime Minister Boris Johnson, in a televised address to the nation, says that Britons should only go outside to buy food, to exercise once a day, or to go to work if they absolutely cannot work from home. Citizens will face police fines for failure to comply with these new measures. |
| Lockdown | Worldwide figures stand at more than 270,000 cases and 11,000 deaths. |
| 25 Mar 2020 | Prince Charles tests positive for the coronavirus. |
| | In the US, negotiators strike a deal on a \$2 trillion coronavirus rescue package intended to assist businesses and millions of Americans amid the halt in the US economy. |
| | Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a 21-day lockdown of the country's 1.3 billion residents. India has only recorded 536 cases of COVID-19 so far. |
| 26 Mar 2020 | G20 world leaders meet virtually to discuss the coronavirus crisis. |
| NHS Clapped | Brits across the UK clap, cheer, and ring bells at 8pm to thank the NHS workers for their service in tackling the pandemic. |
| | UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak unveils a package of measures to help self-employed workers during the economic downturn, giving those earning less than £50,000 a taxable grant equal to 80 percent of their average profits. |
| 27 Mar 2020 | UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Health Secretary Matt Hancock test positive for the coronavirus. |
| 28 Mar 2020 | UK Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, announces he is self-isolating after experiencing symptoms of the coronavirus. |
| 29 Mar 2020 | US announces social distancing measures to continue until 30th April, as the US records the highest number of coronavirus infections in the world, at more than 139,700 cases. |
| 30 Mar 2020 | UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announces the government is to spend £75 million on charter flights and airline tickets to repatriate up to 300,000 Britons stranded abroad as countries have closed their borders to limit the spread of the coronavirus. |
| 31 Mar 2020 | Spain joins the US and Italy as one of the few countries to surpass China's coronavirus case total, reporting 85,195 cases and 8,189 deaths. |
| 1 Apr 2020 | European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announces that the Commission will present an unemployment reinsurance scheme to ensure workers keep their jobs during the coronavirus crisis. |
| | Italy announces it will extend lockdown measures until 13th April. |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 2 Apr 2020 | The number of worldwide coronavirus cases passes one million. |
| 5 Apr 2020 | The UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, is admitted to hospital for testing after his coronavirus symptoms persist. |
| 6 Apr 2020 | UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is admitted to an Intensive Care Unit as his coronavirus symptoms worsen. |
| 7 Apr 2020 | The messaging service WhatsApp announces it is introducing limits to its forwarding service in order to combat disinformation. The application has been a hotbed for the spread of fake news relating to the coronavirus outbreak. Boris Johnson spends another night in intensive care. |
| 9 Apr 2020 | The UK records its highest daily death toll at 938 deaths recorded in 24 hours. |
| 10-12 Apr 2020 Easter | The number of confirmed worldwide deaths passes 100,000. Places of worship remain closed and virtual services celebrate Easter. |

As the virus spread and the number of patients rose, the Government started daily briefings on Monday 16 March. Guidance was given on the avoidance of public gatherings and working from home, 'WFH', to reduce the chances of passing the virus on or getting it. By the end of the week schools were to close, and many businesses had closed to protect their staff.

The 'furlough' announcement had been made and everything was being done to avoid the NHS being overwhelmed.

That 'everything' turned into a lockdown on the evening of Monday 23 March. The debate on the detail of the restrictions and the financial implications became non-stop as the Government suddenly took over large parts of the economy.

Commercial property lettings hit the headlines as the March quarter day (25 March) fell two days later. Unless a retailer was an essential business, e.g. supermarket, they could not trade. The fallout was swift, as retailers refused to pay rent or sought to negotiate new payment terms from landlords.

The Government put a temporary stay on the remedy of forfeiture for non-payment of rent, but not legal remedies to collect the rent due under the contract, or lease. Landlords who were seen as 'aggressive' were called out by the press, and property and occupier organisations sought to combine forces to advise the Government on the implications.

By 2 April, the number of worldwide Coronavirus cases passed 1 million. On 5 April the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was admitted to hospital for testing and a day later was in an intensive care unit where he remained during Easter.