



# Navigating COVID-19

## Emergency response

# Housekeeping

- This is best experienced through headphones which will cut out the background noise.
- To ask questions please go to “**questions**” in your control panel (the sidebar with the controls to the right of your screen). Select the send privately option. We’ll try and answer as many as possible, but don’t worry we’ll also answer any others we haven’t had time to cover after the webinar.
- Don’t worry if you miss anything we will be uploading this to our website in the next few days, so if you want to listen again to us you can!

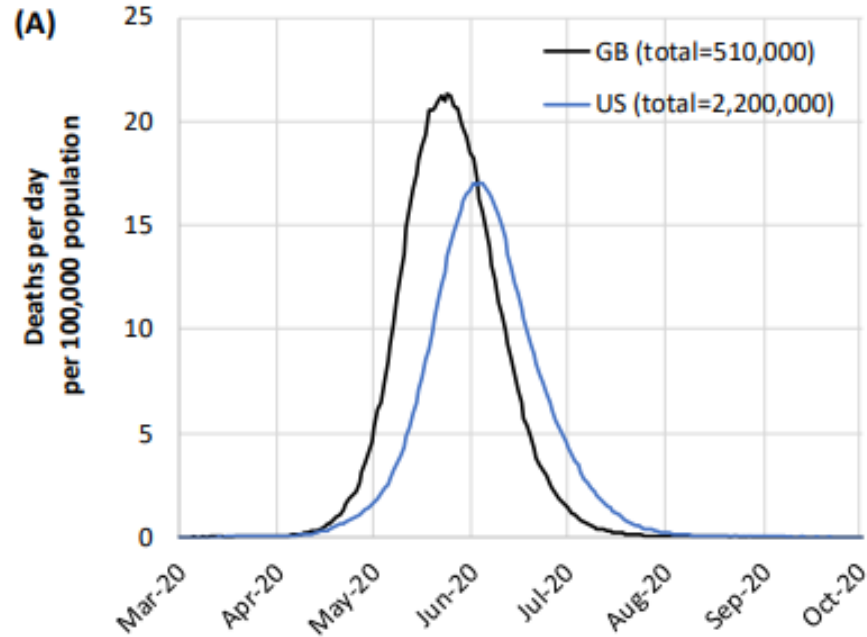


## Hannah Vickers

Chief executive officer

ACE

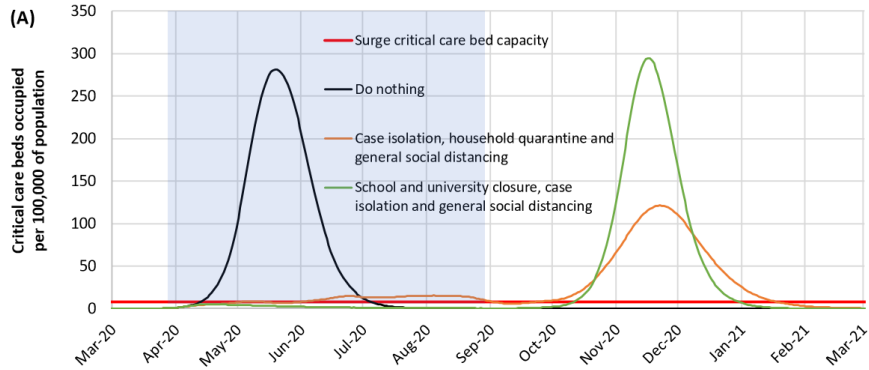
# The un-mitigated situation – peak occurs in three months



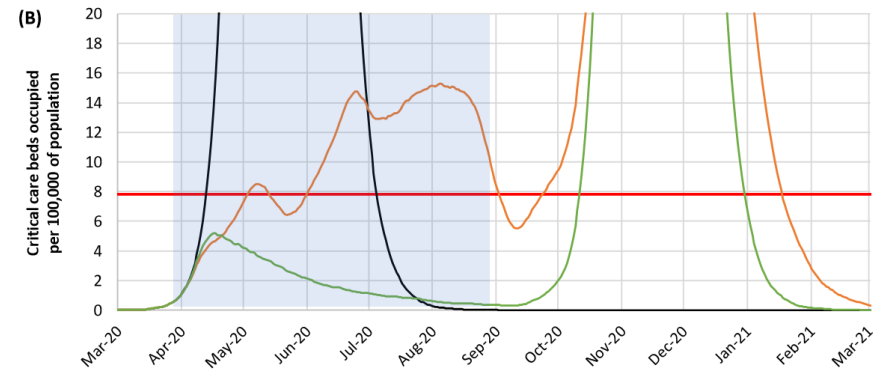
Source: Imperial

# Combining interventions means a peak in three weeks

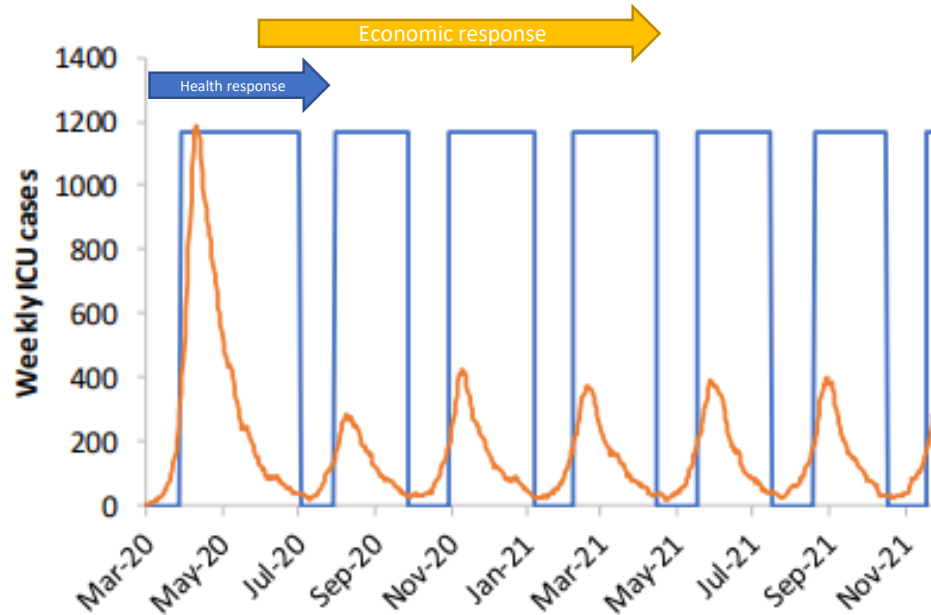
Some measures remain in place for three months...



Source: Imperial



# Intermittent social distancing triggered by trend in disease surveillance – this is now the new normal



Source: Imperial

## Where to get help

### A number of websites offering support including:

- ACE - [www.acenet.co.uk](http://www.acenet.co.uk)
- Coronavirus Business Support - [www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/](http://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/)
- Scotland - [findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/](http://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/)
- Wales - [businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice](http://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice)
- Northern Ireland - [www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/](http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/)

### Specialist coronavirus business helplines:

- England - 0300 456 3565
- Scotland - 0300 303 0660
- Wales - 0300 060 3000
- Northern Ireland - 0800 181 4422
- HMRC - 0800 0159 559

## Tax breaks and deferrals

**Time to Pay (UK)** – All businesses and self-employed people in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, may be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs through HMRC’s Time To Pay service. These arrangements are agreed on a case-by-case basis and are tailored to individual circumstances and liabilities.

**VAT deferral (UK)** – Valued Added Tax (VAT) payments have been deferred for three months. This is an automatic offer with no applications required.

**Companies House (UK)** – Businesses will be given an additional three months to file accounts to help companies avoid penalties as they deal with the impacts of COVID-19. Full guidance can be found on their website.



## Grants and direct support

**Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (UK)** – All employers with a PAYE scheme will be able to access support to continue paying part of their employees' salary. HMRC will reimburse 80% of their wages, up to £2,500 per month to safeguard workers from being made redundant. The scheme will cover the cost of wages backdated to March 1st and is initially open for three months, but will be extended if necessary.

**Self-assessments** – Announcements on the self-employed and sole traders expected later today.

**Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) relief (UK)** – Small and medium-sized businesses will be able to reclaim sick pay paid for staff sickness absence due to coronavirus. This refund will cover up to two weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of coronavirus.

**Small Business Grant Funding (England)** – The Government is providing additional funding for Local Authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates. This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses to help meet their ongoing business costs.

**Small Business Grant Funding (Wales and Scotland)** – As above, but administered by the devolved governments in Cardiff and at Holyrood.

# Loans

**Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (UK)** – The temporary scheme will support small and medium-sized businesses with access to loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to six years. The first 12 months are interest free and the government will also guarantee 80% of each loan.

**COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility (UK)** – The Bank of England’s scheme will buy short-term debt from larger companies. This will support companies which are fundamentally strong, but have been affected by a short-term funding squeeze.

**Commercial lending (UK)** – a number of banks are offering their own support for businesses affected by COVID-19, including Lloyds Bank and NatWest.

## Ways of working

**Public procurement** – The Cabinet Office published a [Procurement Policy Notice](#) on responding to COVID-19. It emphasises the flexibilities available under the regulations for public authorities to make urgent/direct awards in exceptional circumstances (by-passing much of the usual process).

On 20 March, the Cabinet Office [published a second notice](#) with information and guidance for public bodies on payment of their suppliers to ensure service continuity during and after the current coronavirus outbreak.

**Construction sites** – Construction Leadership Council (CLC) has published new [Site Operating Procedures](#). It is strongly recommended that these procedures are implemented by every operational construction site, with the aim of ensuring a standard approach across the industry that all firms and workers can adopt.

**Planning committees** – Sec 78 of The Coronavirus Act 2020 empowers the Sec State to bring in regulations that allow for provisions for council meetings, including local planning authorities, to be held remotely and without councillors being physically present. This creates a framework for virtual council activity. It is now up to the Secretary of State to bring forward the regulations which hopefully will be in the next few days.



## Julian Francis

Director of External Affairs

ACE

# Engaging on your behalf

Strategic immediate, short and medium-term measures to help our industry

## Construction Enquirer

Chancellor urged to ensure construction “fit-for-the-future”

## pbc today

ACE urges government to protect construction amid coronavirus outbreak



Infrastructure body outlines strategic interventions required to help industry

## New Civil Engineer

Construction body calls for investment in SMEs



ACE calls for strategic interventions to help industry through coronavirus crisis

## PROJECT SCOTLAND

THE SCOTTISH CONSTRUCTION NEWS MAGAZINE

‘Positive’ measures suggested to UK chancellor amidst Covid-19 pandemic



# Engaging on your behalf

## Strategic immediate, short and medium-term measures to help our industry

- A grant of up to £50,000 to SMEs in our sector to enable them to meet the digital requirements of working from home to be spent on hardware and specialist software.
- Acceleration of the pre-construction phase of Government programmes, including schools, hospitals and roads, to mitigate the downturn in private sector work, and help projects become shovel-ready sooner.
- Turning the high-level commitment of an “infrastructure revolution” into a reality with a clear published pipeline of projects in the Autumn to stimulate the wider economy and generate business confidence.
- Providing tax incentives for the housebuilding sector and further city deals to devolved Mayors to encourage private sector development.
- Investment in **Future of Consultancy** demonstrator projects, £1 million seed-funding towards the business case and wider funding for R&D and innovation. All of which will ensure the entire sector is more robust going forwards.
- **Working with the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) to present a united voice to the Secretary of State**

# Longer-term engagement

## There won't be a return to business as usual!

- Infrastructure investment and construction must be the catalyst for a return to long-term economic growth
- Money is already earmarked in Budget. Need additional measures to ensure vision can be realised.
- Clarity and action on major projects and net zero issue - Heathrow
- New opportunities for transport emerging from nationalisation
- Importance of research and development for government – How does Future of Consultancy fit into this?



# Questions



## Also in this series...

### **Emergency Response**

Thursday 26 March 2020, 11.00am to 12.00pm

### **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme & SMEs**

Tuesday 31 March 2020, 1.30pm to 2.20pm

### **Procurement and Government contracts**

Thursday 02 April 2020, 12.00pm to 1.00pm

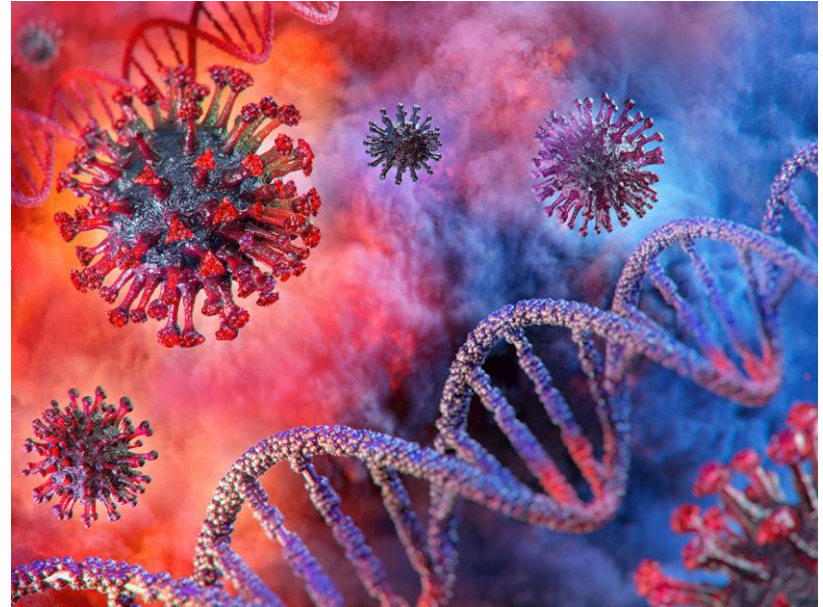
### **People in a pandemic (HR issues)**

Tuesday 7 April 2020, 12.00pm to 1.00pm

### **Communicating in a crisis**

Thursday 9 April 2020, 1.30pm to 2.30pm

[www.acenet.co.uk](http://www.acenet.co.uk)





Thank you!