

[New guidance sets out how to live safely with COVID-19](#)

As set out in the government's [Living with COVID-19 plan](#), the focus of this new phase is on protecting those who are most at risk from the virus.

A new set of guidance from UKHSA provides important public health advice for people with symptoms of respiratory infections, such as COVID-19; people with a positive COVID-19 test and their contacts; and advice on safer behaviours for everyone. UKHSA has also published a set of public health principles for businesses, organisations and employers to consider in managing the risk to their workforce from respiratory infections, such as COVID-19.

Dame Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of UKHSA, said:

As we learn to live with COVID, we encourage people to keep following simple steps to help keep themselves and others safe.

The pandemic is not over and how the virus will develop over time remains uncertain. COVID still poses a real risk to many of us, particularly with high case rates and hospitalisations. That is why it is sensible to wear a mask in crowded, enclosed spaces, keep indoor spaces ventilated and stay away from others if you have any symptoms of a respiratory illness.

Vaccination remains the best way to protect us all from severe disease and hospitalisation. If you have not yet come forward for your primary or booster I would urge you to do so straight away – the NHS vaccine programme is there to help and the sooner you are vaccinated the sooner you and your family and friends will be protected.

People with symptoms of a respiratory infection

UKHSA guidance sets out that people with symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and who have a high temperature or do not feel well, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with others. Those who are asked – or choose to test – and get a positive COVID-19 result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days following the day of their positive result.

There is some evidence that children have a shorter duration of illness compared to adults. Children and young people who are asymptomatic, choose to take a COVID-19 test and receive a positive test result are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day of the test.

There will be some [symptomatic testing available](#) for certain high-risk groups

and settings, including for those who are at highest risk of becoming seriously unwell and who are eligible for COVID-19 monoclonal antibody and antiviral treatments.

The guidance states that it is particularly important that a person with symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, avoids close contact with people whose immune system means that they are at higher risk of serious illness. If a person has tested positive for COVID-19 they should avoid those people who are at higher risk of serious illness for a 10-day period.

Anyone who needs to leave their home whilst they have symptoms of a respiratory infection such as COVID-19, or within 5 days following the day of their positive test, should take important precautions to minimise the chance of passing on their infection. Such precautions could include:

- wearing a well-fitting face covering or a face mask
- avoiding crowded or enclosed spaces such as public transport, large social gatherings and enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- exercising outdoors and away from others
- always remembering good hand and respiratory hygiene

Reducing the risks of spreading infection

Guidance also sets out actions for reducing the risks of spreading infection within the home, where someone has tested positive, or has symptoms of infection, and provides advice for those living in the home who will be close contacts. This is to help reduce the risk of them passing on infection.

For the wider population who don't have symptoms of COVID-19, or other respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test, UKHSA advises some important and sensible public health behaviours that can help to reduce the spread of infections and protect those around them. These include getting vaccinated, ventilating indoor spaces, wearing a face covering or mask in certain situations and keeping up good hand and respiratory hygiene – such as covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Recent evidence on the [effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against Omicron](#) and [wearing face coverings](#) has previously been published by UKHSA.

Updated UKHSA guidance is available online

[Guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19.](#)

[Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19.](#)

[Public health principles for reducing the spread of respiratory infections.](#)

[including COVID-19, in the workplace.](#)

FCD0 statement on UN-brokered truce in Yemen

News story

The UK welcomes the United Nation's two-month truce announcement on Yemen.



An FCD0 spokesperson said:

The United Kingdom welcomes the announcement by the UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Hans Grundberg, of a two-month truce in Yemen. This follows positive steps by all parties, including separate ceasefire initiatives by the Saudi-led Coalition and the Houthis. After seven long years of conflict, this truce represents the best chance to alleviate the humanitarian suffering of Yemenis and improve regional stability.

The UK also welcomes the recent political consultations led by the UN Special Envoy, and the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative for intra-Yemeni dialogue. There is no military solution to the war in Yemen. An inclusive political dialogue is the only route to a sustainable resolution.

Attention should now focus on building further confidence through measures including the re-opening of the Taiz road, and the regular flow of fuel deliveries, goods and flights. All parties must now seize this opportunity and work with UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg to make progress towards a political deal.

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Minister for Africa statement on first aid delivery to Tigray since mid-December

News story

Minister for Africa Vicky Ford has issued a statement following the first delivery of aid to the Tigray region of Ethiopia since mid-December.



Credit: World Food Programme

Commenting on the first delivery of aid reaching Tigray since mid-December, Minister for Africa Vicky Ford said:

The conflict in northern Ethiopia has caused immense harm and suffering to more than 9 million people since it began in November 2020. Millions of civilians have been forced to flee their homes and more people are facing famine-like conditions in the region today than the rest of the world combined.

The arrival of today's humanitarian convoy in Tigrayan controlled areas, the first since mid-December, is a welcome development and comes at a critical point in this dreadful conflict. These aid trucks, more than a quarter of which are directly funded by the UK, will help to replenish severely depleted stocks of fuel and food. The deliveries should also pave the way for humanitarian agencies to resume the provision of further urgent aid to communities that have gone without support for far too long.

Since July last year there has been almost negligible access to Tigray. The violence has made accessing vulnerable people in Tigray complex and dangerous for humanitarian agencies. Relief workers

have been killed, harassed and consistently obstructed. The UK commends their bravery and perseverance.

The UK also recognises the urgent needs of communities in Afar, many of whom have been forced to flee their homes due to the fighting. We acknowledge the important role the Afar authorities have played, alongside the Government of Ethiopia and the authorities in Tigray, in facilitating today's convoy and prioritising the welfare of civilians

Throughout this conflict, the UK has requested that all armed actors provide unfettered humanitarian access for aid agencies. We have called out abuses by all sides to the conflict and committed more than £75 million of aid to those affected in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.

The UK is committed to working with all actors in northern Ethiopia to bring the conflict to a close and to promote long-term peace and development.

Published 1 April 2022

[Lord Grade is confirmed as the new Ofcom Chair](#)

News story

Following a pre-appointment hearing with the DCMS Select Committee, Lord Grade has been appointed by the Secretary of State for 4 years from 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2026.



Lord Grade has had a long career in broadcasting, encompassing London Weekend Television, the BBC, ITV, as well as over nine years as Chief Executive of

Channel Four Television.

In May 2004 he was appointed Chairman of the BBC, succeeding Gavyn Davies, resigning in November 2006 when his appointment as Executive Chairman of ITV was announced, a post he relinquished in 2009.

Lord Grade was non-executive Chairman of Pinewood and Shepperton Film Studios for 16 years. He is non-executive Chairman of Talent Bank and of the production company StoryFirst. He is also on the advisory board of Miroma SET (formerly R4E Plc), a media and entertainment marketing company.

Lord Grade is co-founder of the GradeLinnit company, a theatrical production company, having also been Chairman of Ocado, First Leisure Corporation, Camelot, the Charity Fundraising Regulator and Bradford's Media Museum as well as being a member of the former Press Complaints Commission and a trustee of the Science Museum.

In January 2011 he became the Conservative Peer, Lord Grade of Yarmouth. However if he is appointed as Ofcom chair he will move to the cross-benches at the earliest opportunity. Lord Grade would also give up any non-executive roles that could cause a conflict of interest in him becoming Ofcom chair.

Notes

- This appointment process was run in accordance with the [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#).
- Remuneration for the new Ofcom Chair will be £142,500 annual salary for 3 days per week.
- The Ofcom Board is appointed by the Secretary of State.
- In accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Lord Grade is a Conservative peer in the House of Lords, however he will move to the cross benches if the appointment is confirmed. Lord Grade has not declared any further political activity in line with these requirements.

Published 1 April 2022

[Orlando Fraser is confirmed as the new Charity Commission Chair](#)

News story

Following a pre-appointment hearing with the DCMS Select Committee, Orlando Fraser has been appointed by the Secretary of State for a three year term commencing 25th April 2022.



Orlando Fraser has been a commercial barrister for nearly 30 years, practising at 4 Stone Buildings. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2014. Previously he served on the board of the Charity Commission from 2013 to 2017, where he acted as one of two statutory legal members and chaired the Governance & Remuneration Committee as well as the Policy & Guidance Committee. Orlando has also served on the Civil Justice Council and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations' Advisory Council.

Orlando's involvement in the voluntary sector stretches back to 1992, when he took an aid convoy to Bosnia to help its Muslim population. Since then he has served on the Management Committee of a West London refuge for women victims of domestic abuse, served as a Governor of Ilfracombe College, edited the voluntary sector sections of Centre of Social Justice's "Breakdown Britain" and "Breakthrough Britain" reports, and supported the Rugby Portobello Trust charity through the 2017 Grenfell tragedy. Apart from the Rugby Portobello Trust, Orlando supports a number of other charities.

Notes

- The appointment is for a term of three years. The role is for two and a half days per week, remunerated at £62,500 per annum.
- This appointment is made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's [Governance Code for Public Appointments](#).
- The regulation of public appointments against the requirements of this code is carried out by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.
- In accordance with the Code, it should be publicly disclosed if a successful candidate, has, in the last five years, been employed by a political party, held a significant office in a party, has stood as a candidate for a party in an election, has publicly spoken on behalf of a political party, or has made significant donations or loans to a party. Orlando Fraser has not declared any political activity in line with these requirements.

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