

DVLA opening hours: spring bank holiday 2020

News story

DVLA's contact centre opening times, for critical workers only, over the spring bank holiday.



DVLA's contact centre will be closed on Monday 25 May 2020 because of a bank holiday.

Our full opening hours for critical workers only over the bank holiday weekend are:

Date	Opening hours
Friday 22 May	8am to 1pm, and 2pm to 7pm
Saturday 23 May	closed
Sunday 24 May	closed
Monday 25 May	closed
Tuesday 26 May	8am to 1pm, and 2pm to 7pm

Please do not call us unless you have an urgent query and are a critical worker directly involved in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Critical workers can contact us here.](#)

All customers can use [our online services](#) throughout the bank holiday and beyond. Please do not send in any paper applications until further notice.

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Last updated 18 May 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 18 May 2020

Added translation

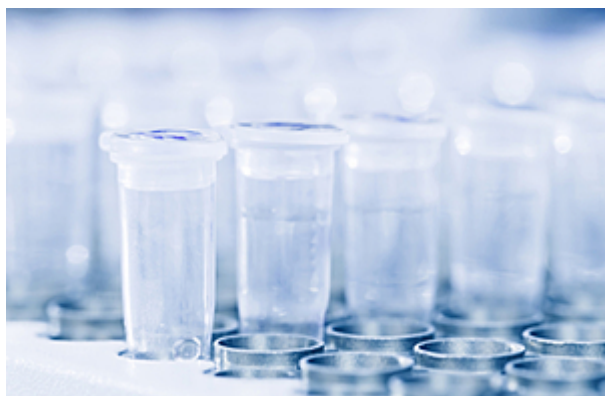
2. 18 May 2020

First published.

UK company delivers over 40,000 PCR test kits to Egypt

World news story

Leading UK company, Primer Design Ltd, a subsidiary of Novacyt SA has exported over 40,000 PCR test kits to Egypt to support its response to COVID-19



The UK and Egyptian government have been working hard to address the immediate medical needs of both countries by keeping essential trade flowing. In April, Egypt fulfilled an export agreement with the UK, sending shipments of medical gowns to support the UK.

British Ambassador to Egypt, Sir Geoffrey Adams said:

Egypt and the UK are committed to working together to tackle this global challenge. The UK government and British businesses are united in their commitment to support Egypt. That means protecting Egyptians from the impact of the virus, providing for the most vulnerable, and where possible using the crisis to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development goals.

On 4 May, the UK co-hosted the Global Response Summit and raised USD8bn in pledges to combat COVID-19. The UK is also leading the way to make coronavirus vaccines and treatments available to all. On 4 June, the UK will host a virtual summit that aims to boost the global supply of a vaccine once one is approved for use, to help prevent a second wave of the pandemic.

The UK is the G7 lead on support to vulnerable countries, and has confirmed a

responsive funding package of more than GBP700m, including a GBP130m contribution to the UN, GBP65m of which is allocated to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

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[Transport for London extraordinary funding and financing](#)

It is vital that we take the necessary steps to protect the services which our critical workers, such as NHS staff, rely on – both in London and all across the country.

So far, we have invested billions into maintaining essential services across rail, buses, trams and ferries outside London, including £30 million over 12 weeks for light rail services in Sheffield, Manchester, West Midlands, Tyne and Wear, and Nottingham; almost £400 million to protect vital bus routes and temporarily suspended rail operators' franchise agreements to transfer all revenue and cost risk to government so that services continue to run.

This is alongside our wider agenda to level up transport networks across the whole country, including [£5 billion for buses and bikes announced back in February](#) (2020), [£4.2 billion for local transport settlements for 8 Mayoral Combined Authorities subject to negotiations](#), a [£1.7 billion Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund to improve roads, repair bridges and fill millions of potholes](#); and the decision by [government to take over the Northern network to protect services, drive up performance and rebuild passenger confidence](#).

We will continue to work with metro mayors, local authorities and transport operators all across the country to ensure that public transport is available for those who need it, including any ramp up in services required as people slowly start to return to work.

In order to keep vital public transport services running in London and further ramp up services to support social distancing, the government agreed on Thursday 14 May [a package of support for Transport for London \(TfL\)](#). It comprises £1.095 billion of new grant and a further loan facility of £505 million. The support can be increased by a further £300 million of grant and loan if revenue loss is higher than forecast at this time.

The settlement for TfL was needed for two reasons. Most important is the significant fall in revenue caused by COVID-19. However, an important secondary factor was the pre-existing poor condition of TfL's financial position as a result of decisions made over the last 4 years. Combined with

significant cost increases and delays to Crossrail, this left TfL in serious financial difficulty even before the public health emergency.

It's important to note that around half of all bus and rail journeys in England are made on its services and that London is by far the most public transport-dependent place in the UK. Almost half of all Londoners, more in inner London, do not have access to cars. London's roads are the most congested in the UK; even with reduced passenger numbers and capacity, TfL's services are still essential to allow critical workers to travel and the city to operate.

Unlike local transport authorities in other towns and cities across England, TfL is responsible for London's bus network, principal road routes, various rail networks including the London Underground, London Overground, Docklands Light Railway and TfL Rail, as well as trams, cycling provision, and river services. To protect these services, It is important therefore that the rescue package takes steps to put TfL back on a sustainable footing while ensuring fairness for the wider British taxpayer. As result, the mayor intends to adhere to the proposal in TfL's own business plan that fares should increase by RPI plus 1% on all modes in January.

We have also set a number of other conditions, including: restoring services to 100% of pre-COVID levels as soon as possible; requiring TfL to collect fares on buses while ensuring driver safety, which it had stopped doing during the crisis; easing congestion by the temporary suspension of free travel for over-60s in the morning peak and temporarily suspending free travel for under-18s all day. Disabled people will still be able to make use of their concession passes all day, and special arrangements will be made for those children who qualify for free travel to schools.

These conditions are needed to avoid crowding and reduce the exposure of vulnerable groups. The mayor has subsequently announced that the Congestion Charge will increase to £15, with extended hours of operation and has withdrawn the residents' discount for new applications.

The Congestion Charge will continue to have exemptions for NHS and care workers and Blue badge holders. Local residents will continue to receive discounts.

To help avoid such drastic action in the future there will be an immediate and broad ranging government-led review of TfL's future financial position and structure.

The decision to offer support was not taken lightly, but reflects the exceptional circumstances the country finds itself in. I consider it vital to keep services in London running to the maximum levels possible to allow safe transport of passengers. Our messaging remains that people should avoid using public transport and work from home wherever possible, but as measures are slowly lifted it is vital that Londoners who need to use TfL services feel safe and secure.

This deal will encourage help protect those who need to use public transport

and help us move towards greener and healthier walking and cycling options. Importantly, it will also provide certainty and stability for London's transport services in the future.

[GAD 2025 Strategy – building on our strengths](#)

News story

In the new GAD 2025 Strategy, we set out our renewed approach to building on our strengths while focusing on 4 key areas; our clients, our people, inclusion and processes.



The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has refreshed its strategic objectives and framework for the next 5 years. In the [new GAD 2025 Strategy](#), we have set out our approach to building on our strengths while focusing on key areas to ensure that as a department of experts we remain fit for the future.

Expertise and analysis

GAD provides actuarial solutions including financial risk analysis, modelling and advice. We support, and solve financial challenges faced in, the UK public sector. The department is one of several public sector organisations which belong to the government's [Analysis Function](#).

Our areas of expertise continue to evolve and cover:

- Insurance, risk and contingent liabilities
- Financial models and quality assurance
- Pension and social security schemes
- Climate change, health and social care

Key areas

In the new GAD 2025 Strategy we focus on 4 main areas; our clients, our people, inclusion and processes. The document also sets out GAD's aims and priorities in each section. This detailed and ambitious 5-year strategy has at its heart a vision that sees GAD in 2025 as a department where we:

- make a difference
- partner effectively with our clients
- are seen as a great place to work
- are widely recognised and respected throughout the public sector

Welcoming the GAD 2025 Strategy, Martin Clarke, the Government Actuary said: "We will build on our strengths including our strong reputation as objective, professional actuarial experts within the public sector.

"We place our clients' needs at the centre of what we do, and we offer fulfilling careers in a supportive environment.

"The benefits to us all of working together to achieve our vision are huge – acquiring new skills, solving new problems and using the latest technology. I see an exciting future for GAD, and I'm looking forward to playing my part in making it happen."

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[Traffic officers swoop to rescue ducklings stranded on M1](#)

Press release

A terrified family of ducklings were saved by Highways England traffic officers when the brood wandered onto the M1 motorway.



The brood of ducklings rescued from the M1 by Highways England traffic officers

The officers swiftly reacted to reports of nine ducklings close to motorway traffic between junctions 27 (Hucknall) and 28 (Alfreton).

Traffic officers briefly closed the northbound carriageway of the motorway at around 4.30pm on Saturday to safely round the stray birds up.

The ducklings were then handed to Derbyshire Police officers and will be found a good home.

Highways England duty manager Richard Meakin said:

We closed the motorway for about 10 minutes so the traffic officers could safely round up the ducklings – animals can be very unpredictable and we didn't want them heading into the carriageway.

I'm pleased to say all ducklings were recovered safe and sound and will now be found a good home far away from the motorway.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

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