

## COVID-19

If you are feeling unwell and have



Cough



Runny nose



Sore throat



Fever



Difficulty breathing

Stay indoors,  
avoid contact  
with others



Call the  
Hospital for  
advice **28000**

## What You Need To Know About COVID-19

COVID-19 is an infectious disease of growing global concern. This page is to provide up-to-date information and links for Falkland Islanders and others so they can stay well informed and take steps to protect their health.

Below are a set of frequently asked questions. These will be updated so please check regularly. As well, there are downloadable information sheets and posters for your use., and links to useful overseas information sources.

### Latest Update

### Support Package Applications

### Frequently Asked Questions

Information you can use (Translations: [Spanish](#), [Filipino](#), [Zimbabwean](#))

### Useful Links



### COVID-19 Public Update - 8 April 2020

#### KEMH UPDATE

There is no change today in the status of COVID-19 cases in the Falkland Islands.

As of yesterday, there were five confirmed cases, all individuals currently serving at Mount Pleasant Complex,

One of these individuals continues to receive care at KEMH while a second has now been discharged from the hospital.

The other three individuals are in isolation at the Base as part of the ongoing MPC arrangements for dealing with possible cases.

137 samples in total have been tested so far in the UK. 131 have been tested as negative. The remaining six swabs were from the five individuals who have now tested positive for COVID-19.

KEMH continues to take test swabs and these will be sent to the UK on the next northbound Airbridge flight.

#### TRAVEL BETWEEN STANLEY AND MPC

As has already been reported BFSAI have stringent restrictions in place and are working hard to reduce movement from MPC to Stanley; this is in order to limit travel to that which is essential only.

BFSAI and RFIP are working collaboratively with stop checks to identify the reasons for journeys to understand if they are essential or not. Reducing movement between the two locations is an important measure

between the two locations is an important measure.

Both communities have a vital part to play. Please think about why you are travelling and if it is essential.

This reduction in travel between the two locations is in place for good reason, please do not ignore this advice.

FIG and BFSAI are also jointly reviewing business practice to identify if changes can be made to conduct activity in a different way to further reduce the need for travel.

Ask yourself before you undertake any journey do you really need to travel and please work with us at this difficult time.

#### NEW RESTRICTIONS ON VISITORS TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Executive Council has approved measures to restrict non-essential visitors to the Falkland Islands, in order to help delay the spread of the COVID-19 virus here.

This measure will seek to protect the local community and reduce demand on the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital.

This means that visitor permits will not be granted.

This does not affect returning residents - individuals holding Falkland Islands status, PRP, work permit holders, and resident permit holders. Nor does it affect BFSAI personnel and MoD contractors.

Only by exception may persons outside of the above categories be permitted entry; this is on a case by case basis for a specific reason and only if approved by the Principal Immigration Officer.

The number of confirmed cases around the world has risen sharply in recent weeks. The World Health Organization acknowledges measures that restrict the movement of people may prove temporarily useful in places with few international connections and limited medical capacity.

They are advised to be short in duration and proportionate to the risk to public health.

This measure will ensure that residents and key workers can continue to come to the Islands whilst minimising any unnecessary travel.

Separate measures are already in place around the management of arriving travellers, to ensure that they isolate from the community for an appropriate period on arrival.

Due to the current suspension of the LATAM services from Chile and Brazil the implications of these changes currently fall mainly on the South Atlantic Airbridge connection which is still operational.

Travellers that fall outside of the categories listed above will not be permitted to travel on this service unless this is approved in writing by the Principal Immigration Officer in advance.

These restrictions apply to all travellers who require a visitor permit regardless of how they wish to travel to the Falklands, whether by air or sea.

Around the world, international restrictions on visitors have been applied, and so this proposed move is both proportionate and in-step with the response of other nations.

Executive Council will review these measures no later than 31 May 2020 in order to determine whether they remain appropriate.

- If you have any questions please email the Customs & Immigration Service at [immigrationofficer@customs.gov.fk](mailto:immigrationofficer@customs.gov.fk) or telephone +500 27340.
- Please note that the office is closed to the public at this time and queries will only be dealt with over the phone or by email.

#### GUIDANCE ON SELF ISOLATION FOR AIRBRIDGE ARRIVALS

The Government yesterday strengthened guidance around Self-Isolation for those who have arrived on Airbridge flights.

This group is described as being in Quarantine. This is self-isolation for the protection of others.

So if you are in this group, it's important that you update yourself with the advice below.

If you have recently arrived in the islands you must self-isolate for 14 days just in case you have Covid-19 and don't realise it. Some people who have Covid-19 don't feel ill but we don't want to take the risk that you could infect others around you.

In practical terms this means that you should not be leaving your house for any reason. You should be asking other people to do your shopping etc and leaving this on the porch for you.

If you live with other people then you need to be able to live separately from the others in the same house.

This means –

- Being able to have a separate bedroom and bathroom
  - Always being able to be 2 metres apart from other people if you are in the same room
  - Cleaning all surfaces after you have touched them

If you can't do this then you either need to quarantine yourself somewhere else or the entire household must quarantine together. If you want more help with this please contact KEMH on 28000.

#### BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY UPDATE

The Falkland Islands Government continues to assist British Antarctic Survey (BAS) around repatriating staff now that their summer season has concluded.

39 out of the 150 staff have so far been repatriated through the Falkland Islands and onto the UK. This will continue over the next month and a half.

To reassure the community, there have been no COVID-19 cases in Antarctica and staff are coming from an effectively quarantined area.

BAS is ensuring there will be no impact on the community and around 90 staff are or will be staying on the cruise ship, Hebridean Sky, currently in Falkland Island waters, before they return to the UK in early May.

#### HELP OUR STORES

You can help our supermarkets and stores keep up the great service they are providing during the COVID-19 response.

The West Store is reminding it has in place a two-metre separation rule for shoppers and staff, so please respect this and if possible ONLY send one person to do the shop.

They also have a delivery service, which means you can order and have the goods delivered to your home.

Kelper Stores is also asking that people come singly to do their shopping. The stores also offer a delivery service or prepare your order for you to come and collect.

The Chandlery also have a delivery service but are noting some people are using the service for their daily shopping needs – it would be better if they plan for a weekly order to ease the mounting pressure on making deliveries.

As well, they would prefer people when possible to please use the store rather than home deliveries this will enable the Chandlery to offer an improved service to the High-risk people in isolation.

Advice around the Falkland Islands Government's COVID-19 response can change. Please watch out for further statements from the Government in local media and through the FIG and Community Facebook pages, the web page <https://www.fig.gov.fk/covid-19> and other channels.

**COVID-19 Public Update - 7 April 2020**

**COVID-19 Public Update – 6 April 2020**

**COVID-19 Public Update – 5 April 2020**

**COVID-19 Public Update – 3 April 2020**

**COVID-19 Public Update – 2 April 2020**

**COVID-19 Public Update – 1 April 2020**

**COVID-19 Public Update – 31 March 2020**

[New stage in Government COVID-19 response - 26 March 2020](#)

[Infectious Diseases Control Regulations - 24 March 2020](#)

[Summary – Next stage in COVID-19 Response - 20 March 2020](#)

[What is social distancing and why is it important - 20 March 2020](#)

[NEW TRAVEL ADVISORY - 17 March 2020](#)

[INFECTIOUS DISEASES PLAN PUBLIC - 16 March 2020](#)

## Support Package Applications Now Open

Applications can now be made for the Falkland Islands Government's support package that was announced on 25 March 2020 for private sector employers with employees, as well as the self-employed who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government is doing this to reinforce and support the strong public health action which the Falkland Islands Government is taking to protect the population and minimise the social and economic impact of this challenging issue.

### How to apply:

Application forms along with other guidance are available through:

Falkland Islands Government - [Here](#)

<https://www.fig.gov.fk/covid-19>

Falkland Islands Development Corporation –

<http://www.fidc.co.fk/library/covid-19>

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) is tasked to develop the commercial sector of the Falkland Islands by being one of the principal partners delivering the Economic, Rural and Tourism Strategies.

If you need assistance filling out the forms, contact Sian Davies, Business Development Officer, at FIDC telephone 51211.

Relevant documents will be translated into Spanish and Filipino and posted to the websites within the next few days.

The package provisions apply to the following categories.

- All employees with symptoms who are advised by KEMH to self-isolate for 14 days will continue to be paid by their employer (regardless of whether they are entitled to leave or sick pay). Employers will be able to seek reimbursement of the costs of this measure from the Government, up to a cap of £1,250 for the 14 calendar days per employee for the period of isolation.
- All self-employed people with symptoms who are advised in writing by KEMH to self-isolate for 14 calendar days will similarly be able to claim a sum of up to £1,250 for the 14 calendar days of self-isolation.
- All “vulnerable” self-employed people who are advised in writing by KEMH to self-isolate for an initial period of 3 months, and who are unable to work from home, will be able to claim a sum of up to £2,500 per month for the period of isolation.
- All “vulnerable” employees who are advised by KEMH to self-isolate for an initial period of 3 months, and who are unable to work from home, will continue to be paid by their employer (regardless of whether they are entitled to leave or sick pay). Employers will be able to seek reimbursement for this measure from the Government, up to a cap of £2,500 per employee per month for the period of isolation.
- When private sector employees without symptoms are
  - a) advised by KEMH to self-isolate due to a household member being symptomatic with a fever and with that household member having been advised by KEMH to self-isolate; or
  - b) advised by the government to stay home due to being classified as a non-essential worker.
  - and who in both instances cannot work from home, they will continue to be paid by their employer (regardless of whether they are entitled to leave or sick pay) for a period of up to 14 days.
- When self-employed people without symptoms are
  - a) advised by KEMH to self-isolate due to a household member being symptomatic with a fever and with that household member having been advised by KEMH to self-isolate.

- or b) advised by the government to stay home due to being classified as a non-essential worker,
- and who in both instances cannot work from home, they will be able to claim a sum of up to £1,250 for a period of up to 14 calendar days.

All funds will be considered taxable and subject to the usual deductions from payroll.

If employees or self-employed persons are able to work from home during any period of isolation, we would expect them to do so and not to claim re-imbursment from Government.

These measures are designed to ensure that everyone can make the right choice to take necessary public health measures, for the benefit of all, whilst ensuring that the impact on the economy is minimised.

The Government will be announcing further measures to assist the private sector more generally within the next several days.

In addition, the Government continues to offer a range of benefits and allowances to Falkland Islands residents through the Department of Health and Social Services.

	<b>Application Form and Guidelines - Employer</b> Created: 2020-04-02   Size: 321.06 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
	<b>Application Form and Guidelines - Self-Employed</b> Created: 2020-04-02   Size: 307.71 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
	<b>Employer flowchart</b> Created: 2020-04-02   Size: 72.56 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
	<b>EMPLOYEE FAQ</b> Created: 2020-04-02   Size: 50.36 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
	<b>EMPLOYER FAQ</b> Created: 2020-04-02   Size: 52.31 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
	<b>SELF EMPLOYED FAQ</b> Created: 2020-04-02   Size: 54.28 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
	<b>Self-Employed flowchart</b> Created: 2020-04-02   Size: 59.69 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
	<b>Employers Claim form template</b> Created: 2020-04-06   Size: 171.5 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>

## COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

*This information was last updated on 17 March, 2020.*

<b>What is COVID-19?</b>
COVID-19 is an illness caused by the new novel coronavirus strain, SARS-CoV-2.
<b>Symptoms of COVID-19</b>
<b>What preparations have been made for COVID-19 in the Falkland Islands?</b>
<b>How COVID-19 is spread</b>
<b>How can I avoid catching COVID-19?</b>
<b>What should I do if I feel unwell?</b>
<b>What is the advice on those returning to or travelling to the Falklands?</b>

What steps will be taken if there is a suspected COVID-19 case in the Falkland Islands?

Why can't we test in the Falklands?

What is self-isolation?

Treatment for COVID-19

Who is most at risk of COVID-19?

Can I catch COVID-19 off parcels from overseas

Can I get COVID-19 from food or takeaways?

Are face masks useful for preventing COVID-19?

Is there a vaccine for COVID-19?

I have a child studying in the UK – should they come home?

Do I need to avoid public places?

Should I stock up on supplies?

## Information you can use

Here is more information you can read. These can be downloaded and printed out.

The material covers:

### Covid-19 - What you need to know



**Covid-19 - What you need to know**

Created: 2020-04-03 | Size: 108.68 KB

Download

### Feeling Unwell Poster



**Feeling Unwell - Poster**

Created: 2020-03-06 | Size: 192.49 KB

Download

### A COVID-19 information leaflet



**COVID-19 Information Leaflet**

Created: 2020-03-05 | Size: 468.66 KB

Download

### All about flu



**Flu Leaflet**

Created: 2020-03-05 | Size: 473.55 KB

Download

### Information for schools



**COVID-19 Information For Schools**

Created: 2020-03-05 | Size: 326.1 KB

Download

### Information for hotels and lodges



**COVID-19 Advice For Hotels**

Created: 2020-03-05 | Size: 266.56 KB

Download



### COVID-19 Cleaning Information

Created: 2020-03-05 | Size: 256.59 KB

Download

#### What is Social Distancing



### Social Distancing

Created: 2020-03-20 | Size: 128.77 KB

Download



### Social Distancing - Spanish

Created: 2020-03-27 | Size: 60.51 KB

Download



### Social Distancing - Filipino

Created: 2020-03-29 | Size: 107.03 KB

Download



### Social Distancing - Zimbabwean

Created: 2020-04-06 | Size: 97 KB

Download

#### Self-isolation – 10 tips



### Self-isolation - 10 tips

Created: 2020-03-05 | Size: 324.72 KB

Download



### Self-isolation - 10 tips - Spanish

Created: 2020-03-27 | Size: 27.41 KB

Download



### Self-isolation - 10 tips - Filipino

Created: 2020-03-27 | Size: 61.26 KB

Download



### Self-isolation - 10 tips - Zimbabwean

Created: 2020-04-06 | Size: 124.31 KB

Download

#### SPANISH COVID-19 Latest Updates



### COVID-19 Public Update - 8 April 2020 - Spanish

Created: 2020-04-09 | Size: 90.89 KB

Download



### COVID-19 Public Update - 7 April 2020 - Spanish

Created: 2020-04-08 | Size: 57.59 KB

Download



### COVID-19 Public Update - 6 April 2020 - Spanish

Created: 2020-04-07 | Size: 55.82 KB

Download

#### FILIPINO COVID-19 Latest Updates



### COVID-19 Public Update - 8 April 2020 - Filipino

Created: 2020-04-09 | Size: 156.05 KB

Download



### COVID-19 Public Update - 7 April 2020 - Filipino

Created: 2020-04-08 | Size: 134.68 KB

Download



### COVID-19 Public Update - 6 April 2020 - Filipino

Created: 2020-04-07 | Size: 101.67 KB

Download

#### ZIMBABWEAN COVID-19 Latest Updates

## Useful links concerning COVID-19

The following links cover the latest global information and from the UK.

World Health Organization information is here: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

National Health Service information is here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

UK Government latest information and advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

## Contact Us

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