

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](#)

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[Government unveils comprehensive COVID-19 support package - 17 April](#)

The Falkland Islands Government has today announced a suite of new measures to assist businesses, private sector employees and households as they adjust to the economic effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The measures when taken together represent a comprehensive approach to addressing the cash flow needs of private sector workers and households and the liquidity needs of micro, small and medium sized businesses over the next three months.

A sector specific package of measures for wool farmers and other sectors are being considered separately.

The measures proposed are together comprised of:

- a job retention scheme to assist with employee retention and to support income stability for households;
- an enhanced unemployment subsidy system to support income stability for households where individuals have been economically dismissed;
- direct non-repayable grants to businesses to assist with liquidity;
- provision of government backed loan guarantees for businesses to assist with liquidity, subject to approval of the Secretary of State;
- reductions in electricity rates to support businesses and households
- a waiver of utility service charges for a period of ninety days
- existing government mechanisms that can be accessed during times of need

The following summary provides a general overview of the measures but should not be relied upon as definitive guidance, which shall be provided in due course. The application of one or all of these measures may be contingent on the status of the government's response to the Pandemic. Government will advise of any changes as and when they occur.

1. A new job retention "furlough" scheme

Businesses may find themselves in a position where they are unable to pay their employees' wages and salaries due to a significant reduction of revenues over a protracted 90 day period. Similarly, self-employed workers may face a serious reduction of their income. Under this measure, if an employer is unable to operate or have limited or no work for the employee because of Covid-19, and if the employer and employee both agree, the employer would be able to keep the employee on the payroll at 80% of salary. This is known as being 'on furlough'.

- With respect to employees, the new scheme will cover
 - 80% of salary for furloughed employees for a period of up to 90 days
 - 80% of salary for employees on reduced hours, proportional to the percentage of hours not worked for a period of up to 90 days.
- With respect to self-employed workers:
 - the new scheme will cover 80% of the last two years' average monthly net earnings for a period of up to 90 days .

For both employees and self-employed workers, there will be a cap of £2,500 per month.

All payments will be considered taxable in the hands of recipients.

The recently announced Private Sector Employee Support Scheme will continue to apply to those who are required by KEMH to isolate or who are on the vulnerable list. However, non-essential workers required to stay at home by the government would now be covered under the new Job Retention Scheme effective April 24, 2020.

2.0 Unemployment Subsidy System

A new unemployment subsidy system will be targeted at workers who are dismissed as a result of the crisis. This measure will provide financial reassurance to those who have been dismissed, through no fault of their own, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The unemployment subsidy will cover 60% of the last monthly salary for a period of up to 90 days
- There will be a cap of £2,500 per month.

All payments will be considered taxable in the hands of recipients.

This measure will have an effective eligibility date of March 20, 2020.

3.0 Direct Grants to targeted micro, small and medium enterprises

Some businesses may face high solvency risks due to a significant or critical reduction in demand for their goods or services. The government would provide financial support to temporarily support the economic viability of two broad classifications of firms with two different types of direct, non-repayable grants.

Micro and Small Businesses

The level of each individual grant will:-

- will be targeted to businesses below £500,000 in turnover;
- will be calculated so it avoids being an unnecessary windfall;
- will range from zero to a total of £20 thousand for a 90 day period; and
- All payments will be considered taxable.

Micro, Small and Medium Sized Businesses in the Hospitality Sector and the Human Health and Social Work activities sectors

The level of each individual grant:-

- will be targeted to businesses below £1,000,000 in turnover;
- will be calculated so it avoids being an unnecessary windfall;
- will range from zero to a total cap of £30 thousand in total a 90 day period; and
- All payments will be considered taxable.

The government is targeting May 1 for this programme to be "application ready".

4.0 Government Guaranteed Loans for businesses

The government intends to further explore the establishment of a Government guaranteed commercial loan scheme that would allow businesses to apply for a partially government guaranteed loan up to a government authorized maximum. Among other considerations, such a scheme would require approval from the Secretary of State.

5.0 Service Charge Waiver

Service Charges will effectively be “waived” for a period of three months.

The reduction in rates to zero will benefit all households and businesses with premises.

The start date for this reduction will be advised in due course but will occur as soon as possible.

6.0 Electricity Credit

The price of electricity will be reduced from 23p to 18p per unit for a 90 day period.

This measure will apply to all businesses and households.

The start date for this reduction will be advised in due course but will occur as soon as possible.

7.0 Other Financial Measures

Following discussion with the government, Standard Chartered Bank is now in the process of designing measures to support those of its borrowers affected by the current challenging circumstances. The Bank will consider up to 3 months payment holidays on all existing lending product lines for those customers that contact the Bank and provide a summary or evidence of hardship. Customers can contact the Bank directly for guidance.

8.0 Other General Measures

In addition to these new measures, Falkland Island residents are reminded that there are other existing avenues that could be pursued if they are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic.

- Some residents may be eligible to apply for contribution credits to the Falkland Islands Pension Scheme.
- If you are experiencing difficulty paying taxes as a result of the pandemic consider having a discussion with the Falkland Islands Government Taxation Office to explain your situation.
- If you are in FIG housing and experiencing difficulty paying your rent as a result of the pandemic consider having a conversation with the Housing Office to explain your situation.

[COVID-19 Public Update - 17 April 2020](#)

[COVID-19 Public Update - 16 April 2020](#)

[COVID-19 Public Update - 15 April 2020](#)

[COVID-19 Public Update PM - 14 April 2020](#)

[COVID-19 Public Update - 9 April 2020](#)

[COVID-19 Public Update - 8 April 2020](#)

[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](#)

[Guide to FIG services](#)

[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](#)

Essential Travel Application

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

FIG has explored options around the introduction of a process so that essential travel is specifically authorised, this will support efforts already in place by BFSAI

FIG have decided to jointly sign registrations under this scheme.

The scheme is intended to reduce travel between the two population centres and thereby minimise the risk of COVID19 across the Falklands..

Anyone travelling from MPC must have written authorisation with them.

People travelling in from Camp may get stopped, in which case they will be offered advice on social distancing.

Persons who use the MPA road for reasons, such as travel to and around Camp, do not need to register.

The form below is for anyone wishing to make an Essential Travel Application. In relation to the registration process itself enquiries should be addressed to your employer in the first instance or pa.desis@sec.gov.fk



Essential Travel Application

Created: 2020-04-14 | Size: 84.31 KB

Download

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-imburement 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.

English



Application Form and Guidelines - Employer

Created: 2020-04-02 | Size: 321.06 KB

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Application Form and Guidelines - Self-Employed

Created: 2020-04-02 | Size: 307.71 KB

Download



Employer flowchart

Created: 2020-04-02 | Size: 72.56 KB

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Self-Employed flowchart

Created: 2020-04-02 | Size: 59.69 KB

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EMPLOYEE FAQ

Created: 2020-04-02 | Size: 50.36 KB

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EMPLOYER FAQ

Created: 2020-04-02 | Size: 52.31 KB

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SELF EMPLOYED FAQ

Created: 2020-04-02 | Size: 54.28 KB

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Employers Claim form template

Created: 2020-04-06 | Size: 171.5 KB

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Spanish

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

This information was last updated on 17 March, 2020.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an illness caused by the new novel coronavirus strain, SARS-CoV-2.

Symptoms of COVID-19

What preparations have been made for COVID-19 in the Falkland Islands?

How COVID-19 is spread

How can I avoid catching COVID-19?

What should I do if I feel unwell?

What is the advice on those returning to or travelling to the Falklands?

What steps are taken for a suspected COVID-19 case in the Falkland Islands?

Why can't we test in the Falklands?

What is self-isolation?

Specific advice on self-isolation for different groups

[Can I go outside for exercise?](#)

[Can I go for a drive?](#)

[I have returned on the Airbridge and am in quarantine - can I go out for a walk or a drive?](#)

[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?](#)

[Should I wear a face mask?](#)

[Do gloves offer protection?](#)

[Is there a vaccine for COVID-19?](#)

[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

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Social Distancing



What is social distancing and why is it important

Created: 2020-04-13 | Size: 124.73 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



What you need to know about Social Distancing

Created: 2020-04-13 | Size: 54.82 KB

Download

Self-isolation



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



Self-isolation Guidance

Created: 2020-04-16 | Size: 132.33 KB

Download



Self-isolation Guidance - Spanish

Created: 2020-04-17 | Size: 87.24 KB

Download



Self-isolation Guidance - Filipino

Created: 2020-04-17 | Size: 184.98 KB

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SPANISH COVID-19 Latest Updates



Government unveils comprehensive COVID-19 support package - 17 April 2020 - Spanish

Created: 2020-04-20 | Size: 75.67 KB

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COVID-19 Public Update - 17 April 2020 - Spanish

Created: 2020-04-20 | Size: 37.83 KB

Download



COVID-19 Public Update - 16 April 2020 - Spanish

Created: 2020-04-17 | Size: 52.5 KB

Download

FILIPINO COVID-19 Latest Updates



Government unveils comprehensive COVID-19 support package - 17 April 2020 - Filipino

Created: 2020-04-20 | Size: 209.63 KB

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COVID-19 Public Update - 17 April 2020 - Filipino

Created: 2020-04-20 | Size: 134.69 KB

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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>

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