



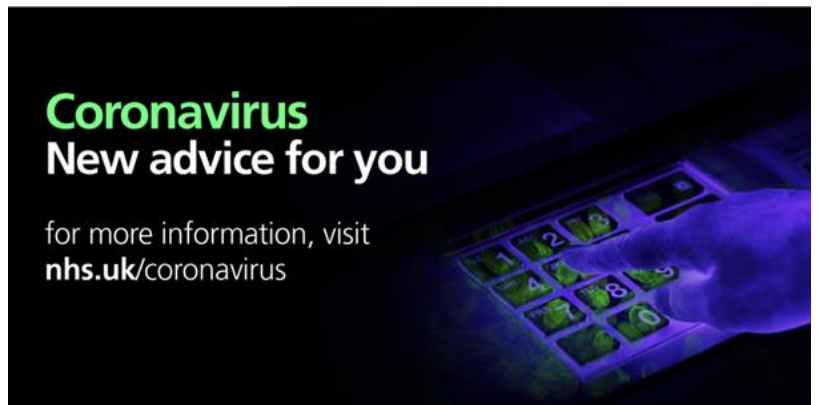
National effort needed to respond to Coronavirus outbreak

James has given his support to the wide-ranging strategy taken by the Government led by expert scientific advice to combat the spread of the Coronavirus saying that we all have our part to play as part of a national effort to save lives.

The Government’s clear strategy based on world-leading scientific expertise is to delay the spread of the virus to minimise the suffering caused. By delaying the peak – sometimes referred to as ‘flattening the curve’ - even by a few weeks, then our NHS will be in a stronger state and our society will be better able to cope.

The most important task is to protect our elderly and most vulnerable people when there is the maximum risk of exposure to the disease and when the NHS will be under the most pressure.

This means deploying defences to the virus at the right time to maximise their effect.



The overriding goal is to protect life from this virus. This strategy is to protect the most vulnerable and protect the NHS through contain, delay, research and mitigate. We will all be asked to make sacrifices, to protect ourselves and others.

The two most important messages are that it remains vital to continue to wash our hands thoroughly and that we will get through this if we look out for each other and commit wholeheartedly to a full national effort.

I will be working from home this week having come into contact with someone diagnosed with Covid-19. This is an entirely precautionary measure as I am feeling fit & well and will be continuing with my constituency & ministerial duties.

News in Brief



James visited **St Stephen’s RC Primary School** in Welling to field questions from Year 6 pupils following their recent visit to the House of Commons.

James has welcomed a **direction to the Mayor of London to change the London Plan** and provide greater flexibility to Bexley & other councils in the delivery of London’s housing needs. The instruction from the Communities Secretary comes after James joined other local MPs in pressing for changes.

A Budget to ‘get things done’

James has welcomed this week’s Budget to deliver on the promises made to the British people at the General Election to invest in infrastructure, the NHS and public services across the country.

The plans outlined by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, will provide security for now while laying the foundation for prosperity in the future. Increases in the National Insurance threshold and the National Living Wage announced in the Budget will also mean families keep more of the money they earn.

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