



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

National sight loss charities advice pages

The principle source of up-to-date advice and guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the official government website:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Sight Advice FAQs on COVID-19

These pages contain advice on social distancing, shopping, guiding and travel:

www.sightadvicefaq.org.uk/independent-living/Covid-19 -

A number of national sight loss charities have set up specialist advice and support on coronavirus (COVID-19). We have outlined below what these organisations are doing with links to their websites.

Blind Veterans

“Blind Veterans UK are ensuring that the most vulnerable veterans we support are receiving everything they need right now. More than 90% of the blind veterans we serve are over 70 and so most at risk from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the coming months. As a result our immediate priorities have changed.

“Having to self-isolate, our older beneficiaries need our help right now with daily tasks, such as shopping, medication, and emotional support through this difficult time. For that reason we are temporarily changing our service model and mobilising our staff to provide practical, essential support to help the most vulnerable.”

General advice and support from Blind Veterans, mostly linking to official government pages, can be found here:

www.blindveterans.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-updates

Guide Dogs

“Here at Guide Dogs our top priority is the welfare and safety of the people we support, our volunteers, staff and our dogs. We have a plan which we are reviewing daily based on the latest advice from the government and are tracking the current approaches being deployed across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

“People who use our services and our volunteers can find more information below. We recommend everyone keeps up-to-date with the latest NHS guidelines.”

Guide Dogs information for service users:

www.guidedogs.org.uk/coronavirus/Services

Guide Dogs information for volunteers:

www.guidedogs.org.uk/coronavirus/Volunteers

Macular Society

The Macular Society has a number of pages of advice, including frequently asked questions and coronavirus traveling tips which can be found here: www.macularsociety.org/coronavirus

RNIB

“RNIB’s services are needed more than ever in these uncertain times. As the situation regarding Covid-19 changes, information is vital and we are working to ensure blind and partially sighted people are kept informed and have access to help.

“It is a fast-evolving situation and we are ramping up our support networks and capabilities. We urge anyone in our community who needs help to **call our Helpline on 0303 123 9999.**”

Five ways RNIB services can help: www.rnib.org.uk/sight-loss-advice/covid-19-five-ways-rnib-services-can-help

Latest news from RNIB on COVID-19: www.rnib.org.uk/covid-19

Thomas Pocklington Trust

Together with [RNIB](#), [Guide Dogs](#), [VisionUK](#) and [Visionary](#), TPT is lobbying government to add blind and partially sighted people on to the priority list for online shopping. It is urging people to sign a petition and write to their MPs to add their voice to the campaign.

TPT's website with links to key sources of information, petition and template letter to MPs is here:

www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/coronavirus

Visionary

“We want to support Visionary members at a time when information can be confusing, and for some there is a heightened sense of concern and worry.”

Visionary's webpage will be kept updated with information:

<https://visionary.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Vision UK

“Vision UK is following current guidance from the government on Coronavirus (COVID-19) based on the World Health Organization's declaration that this is a pandemic, a public health emergency of international concern.”

Regular updates are being added to: www.visionuk.org.uk