The UK government has given new advice on COVID-19. In a press conference on Monday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson explained what the government wants people to do so they can stay healthy.

Most schools will be kept open for now, but what we do in our free time will change. The government wants us to avoid places where there are lots of people, such as restaurants and parties, for the time being.

Mr Johnson also said that people should not travel to places unless they really need to.

The government has also given new advice for people who are feeling unwell. The Prime Minister says people with a cough and high temperature should stay at home for 14 days.

Mr Johnson advised that adults should work from home if they can. He went on to say the government’s advice would cause big changes in the way “people lead their lives”.

COVID-19 has been in the news a lot recently. It’s a coronavirus. This is a type of virus. It can cause coughing, tiredness, difficulty breathing and a fever.

The virus can also cause more severe symptoms for some people who are already ill or elderly. According to the UK government’s website, “most cases appear to be mild.”

The World Health Organisation (WHO) say that most people recover without needing any special treatment. The WHO is also asking people to practise something called social distancing. This means keeping enough space between someone who may be ill and someone who is healthy.

The WHO says keeping a metre apart from someone who is coughing will help slow down the spread of viruses.

It’s important to regularly wash your hands. The NHS says people should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds.

This is the length of singing ‘Happy Birthday’ twice.

**What is COVID-19?**

- COVID-19 is a coronavirus. This is a type of virus. It can cause coughing, tiredness, difficulty breathing and a fever.
- The virus can also cause more severe symptoms for some people who are already ill or elderly.

**Illustration: A zoomed-in image of coronavirus**

**Glossary**

- **virus**: A very small particle that can cause an illness.
- **symptoms**: A physical or mental sign of an illness.
- **treatment**: Medical care given to a patient for an illness or injury.
- **social**: When people meet each other for pleasure.