

# TfL and Crossrail construction sites temporarily suspended, helping limit spread of coronavirus

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Crossrail is bringing all project sites to a temporary safe stop unless they need to continue for operational safety reasons.

The news has been revealed by Transport for London in attempts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Earlier this month Crossrail Ltd said it had hoped to bring the Elizabeth line into passenger service as soon as practically possible in 2021. The central section was on schedule to be substantially completed by the end of the first quarter this year, although it is unclear what impact the news today will have on the schedules.

Mike Brown MVO, London's Transport Commissioner, said: "The Government and the Mayor have given clear instructions to stay safe and to stop travelling in all cases other than critical workers making absolutely essential journeys.

“In line with this, TfL and Crossrail will be bringing all project sites to a temporary Safe Stop unless they need to continue for operational safety reasons. This means that work on all such projects will be temporarily suspended as soon as it is safe to do so. Essential maintenance of the transport network will of course continue.

“This is being done to ensure the safety of our construction and project teams and also to further reduce the number of people travelling on the public transport network. It is vital that the transport network is only used by critical workers. As we work through these issues with our supply chain, consideration will be given to the impact on workers, particularly those who are on low incomes.”

Last week the Bond Street site was closed on March 19th after a member of the site team tested positive for COVID-19 while on annual leave outside the UK.

Mark Wild, Chief Executive, Crossrail Ltd said: “Essential and business critical work continues across the Crossrail programme but our priority is to keep our people safe and limit movement. Last week we asked everyone who could work from home to do so and put in place measures to limit movement across the programme. As a further measure we have taken the decision with our Tier 1 contractors to temporarily stop station activity and close our sites until further notice.

“While we are doing everything we safely can to keep the Crossrail programme on track, COVID-19 will have an impact – it’s too early to tell what that impact will be. We are doing everything we can to support our principal contractors during this difficult and challenging time. Our arrangements remain under constant review and we are liaising closely with our Tier 1 contractors and their supply chains to ensure that the Crossrail programme continues to be delivered safely.”

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