

Council – 24th February 2020

Members Briefing Note - Coronavirus

Background Information

- **As of 13th February 2020, a total of 2,521 UK tests have concluded, of which 2,512 were confirmed negative and 9 positive. (This is less than 0.5% of those tested).**
- Public Health England (lead agency) are monitoring and assessing the risk to public health in the UK. The current risk to the UK population is moderate. We continue to keep the situation under constant review and will be considering further action if clinically necessary. Our response at all times has been guided by the advice of the Chief Medical Officers. Dr David Kirrage has been appointed by PHE to lead the outbreak.
- Based on the scientific advice of SAGE the UK Chief Medical Officers are advising anyone who has travelled to the UK from mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Macau, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand in the last 14 days and is experiencing cough or fever or shortness of breath, to stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild.
- NHS has well established protocols for dealing with high consequence infection diseases. These are being updated to reflect the circumstances of this particular incident.
- NHS111, acute and secondary care and primary care settings have been made aware of the incident and potential symptoms of Covid-19.
- Information for students has been developed and shared with DfE, Universities UK, and the DAs.
- Guidance, latest information and advice can be found on www.gov.uk/coronavirus including the situation in the UK, information about the virus, advice for travellers from China, a summary of action taken, diagnosis and analysis and further information. This includes further guidance for front-line multi-agency staff who routinely have close contact with the public.
- Emergency legal powers were made on 10th February to ensure public compliance with public health advice in England. This means that we have powers to ensure those people in supported isolation remain for the full 14 days for their own safety and the safety of the wider public.

Public Messaging

- A UK wide advertising campaign launched on 2nd February is providing clear advice to the public on how to slow the potential spread of Coronavirus and reduce the impact on NHS services.

Local Actions – Redditch Borough Council

- Officers are involved and participating alongside all agencies at scheduled Local Resilience Forum and Strategic Co-ordinating Group teleconferences regarding Coronavirus/Pandemic Disease Risk(s).
- Refresh and review of our Business Continuity Plans (particularly loss of staff/ covering essential services).
- Corporate Business Continuity Exercise (week commencing 24th February) Involvement of Corporate Management Team and Duty Incident Response Officers.
- Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS):- In the event of local people being diagnosed as positive they will be advised by health services on quarantine arrangements. The local authority had power to apply for a court order to restrict their movements should infected persons chose not to follow the recommended quarantine arrangements. These are delegated to WRS and sit with members of the Community Environmental Health team. These powers would be used in conjunction with public health colleagues to ensure that they were only deployed where there was a genuine need. Beyond this the local authority's role may be quite limited.
- Communications team/Health and Safety Officer regularly updating staff and Orb/website updates with signposting to Public Health England advice and guidance.
- Refreshed posters and signs (supporting UK advertising campaign) placed in main buildings/offices in relation to hygiene to limit spread of virus/colds.
- Health and Safety Officer and Civil Contingencies Officer tracking all the relevant authorities and agencies to establish where we need to react and any additional preventative measures need to be factored into business continuity and employee health perspectives.