

UK Escalation Triggers and Response Options

Purpose:

This paper, together with Annex A, sets out a number of escalation scenarios and options for response.

Agreement is sort from the Committee Member that;

- 1) that the additional measures set out in 1) and 2) should the international picture escalate are proportionate?
- 2) that the measures set out in 3) and 4), should there be confirmed UK cases, are proportionate?
- 3) that steps 5), 6) and 7), where the incident escalates to sustained human transmission indicate the correct direction of travel and that Committee Members agree to further work with DHSC on these measures?

Background

In the last week, the outbreak of Wuhan-Coronavirus has escalated from 41 reported cases in Wuhan on 12 January, to 830 cases overall by 24 January. The outbreak has also expanded from its epicentre in Wuhan city across mainland China and to nearby countries. Guided by advice from the CMO, PHE, and independent experts, we have stepped up the UK readiness.

International spread

As long as the outbreak is centred around Wuhan, the primary public health measure adopted is for containment, thereby reducing the risk of imported cases. In the event that another city becomes a similar focal point for the diseases there may be merit in extending the 'enhanced monitoring' to any direct flights from that new location. This decision would need to be made on a case by case basis.

Spread of the diseases could also be at a scale that suggests containment in one or two cities is no longer viable, e.g. there is sustained community transmission in multiple locations across Asia. At this point, public health advice would be that extending the port health measures in place would become unsustainable and would no longer provide the same benefit, beyond the public information advice in place. We would instead focus public health resources on identifying, and isolating cases in the UK with the intention of preventing or delaying the establishment of sustained community transmission in the UK.

Confirmed Cases in the UK

CMO advice is that an individual case in the UK is likely at some point. The NHS is already well prepared to identify and treat infectious disease cases such as WN-CoV. In the case of a sustained human to human transmissions, we would explore surge measure in healthcare and public containment steps.

Escalation levels for WN-COV

(● actions ▶ comms)

Triggers (escalation over time)	1) Infection Spreads to isolated cities/countries e.g. Beijing, Hong Kong, Paris. Geographically limited areas of infection.	2) Infection spreads Regionally/Globally but outside UK. Wide geographical spread of infection. Spread to closer locations (e.g. Europe)	3) First confirmed UK case: imported case	4) First confirmed UK case: UK contracted case	5) Significant transmission in hospitals e.g. to healthcare workers	6) Sustained human to human transmission: Containment no longer possible	7) Pandemic
HEALTH MEASURES							
Port Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain existing port health measures PHE meet UK bound flights from specific destinations Leaflets and flight announcements on UK bound flights from specific destinations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain existing port health measures Stand down PHE meeting UK bound flights Increase leaflets and flight announcements on UK bound flights from specific destinations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review entry point of UK case Assess impact of existing port health measures. Amend if required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain port health measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain port health measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing port health measures Stand down PHE meeting UK bound flights, if not already 	Initiation of the relevant sections of the Health and Social Care Pan Flu Plan
Public Health Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Contact 111 or GP by phone if unwell ▶ Avoid GP surgery and public transport ▶ Advise ambulance transfer to IDU (if very unwell) ▶ Updated infection control guidance and case identification information cascaded to primary and secondary care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Contact 111 or GP by phone if unwell ▶ Avoid GP surgery and public transport ▶ Advise ambulance transfer to IDU (if very unwell) ▶ Updated infection control guidance and case identification information cascaded to primary and secondary care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract tracing for confirmed case ▶ Contact 111 or GP by phone if unwell ▶ Avoid GP surgery and public transport ▶ Advise ambulance transfer to IDU (if very unwell) ▶ Updated infection control guidance cascaded to primary and secondary care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract tracing for confirmed case ▶ Contact 111 or GP by phone if unwell ▶ Avoid GP surgery and public transport ▶ Advise ambulance transfer to IDU (if very unwell) ▶ Updated infection control guidance cascaded to primary and secondary care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract tracing for confirmed case ▶ Updated guidance to HCW staff ▶ Decontamination ▶ Advise local community of alternative care provision ▶ Provide localised/on the ground public health information to local community (e.g. Town Hall events etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cease contact tracing ▶ Enhanced public health information, including detailed advice for home care and advice on when/how to access acute care. 	
NHS Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test all suspected cases in UK Roll-out WN-CoV-specific test Infectious Diseases Unit care for possible cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test all suspected cases in UK Use WN-CoV-specific test Infectious Diseases Unit care for possible cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test all suspected cases in UK and monitor contacts Use WN-CoV-specific test Treat in High Consequence Infectious Disease Unit for confirmed cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test all suspected cases in UK and monitor contacts Use WN-CoV-specific test Treat in High Consequence Infectious Disease Unit for confirmed cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test all suspected cases in UK and monitor contacts Use WN-CoV-specific test Plan for how to enforce possible lockdown of hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No testing Stop testing and tracing – focus on treatment Review isolation protocol/PPE use 	

WIDER GOVERNMENT MEASURES							
Triggers	Infection Spreads to isolated cities/countries e.g. Beijing, Hong Kong, Paris. Geographically limited areas of infection.	Infection spreads Regionally/Globally but outside UK. Wide geographical spread of infection. Spread to closer locations (e.g. Europe)	First confirmed UK case: imported case	First confirmed UK case: UK contracted case	Significant transmission in hospitals e.g. to healthcare workers	Sustained human to human transmission: Containment no longer possible	Pandemic
FCO	➤ Advice to British Nationals in those countries?	➤ Advice to British Nationals in those countries?	• Any further action?	• Any further action?	• Any further action?	• Any further action?	
MHCLG	• LRFs to receive latest information on advice to the public.	• LRFs to receive latest information on advice to the public.	• LRFs to receive latest information on advice to the public.	• LRF in area of case to received targeted information on advice to the public – social distancing • Link to PHEs contact tracing.	• LRF in area of case to received targeted information on advice to the public – social distancing • Link to PHEs contact tracing.	• MHCLG/LRF to issue revised advice to public – e.g. advice on large public gatherings	
DEFRA	• Updated advice on handling of animals/food based on emerging evidence	• Updated advice on handling of animals/food based on emerging evidence	• Any further action?	• Any further action?	• Any further action?	• Any further action?	
DfE	• General education sector aware of latest public health advice • Specific advice to educational links to affected areas – repeating FCO travel advice	• General education sector aware of latest public health advice • Specific advice to educational links to affected areas – repeating FCO travel advice	• General education sector aware of latest public health advice	• General education sector aware of latest public health advice	• DfE to issue revised advice to schools/educational establishments in affected area. • Links to PHE contact tracing	• DfE to issue revised advice to public/educational establishments re opening	
DfT	• Review evidence on maintaining direct flights based on context and situation • Maintain awareness of international flight operations	• Review evidence on maintaining direct flights based on context and situation • Maintain awareness of international flight operations	• Any further action?	• Any further action?	• Any further action?	• Review and issue guidance on the maintenance and use of internal transport.	
Scotland	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Northern Ireland	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Wales	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Official: Sensitive