

Communications

Strategy

- The majority of coverage focuses on attempts to trace contacts of the two healthcare workers testing positive for the virus yesterday and there is significant interest in the identity of the 'super spreader', with many outlets attempting to establish details of his life and journey. We continue to work with journalists to report responsibly and to rebut inaccuracies.
- The Secretary of State's new regulations were proactively announced via press release yesterday.
- DHSC communications continue to work closely with other OGD partners to reassure local communities including those in Brighton and Hove, in schools and the Chinese community.
- Communications planning is underway with NHS England to prepare for the release of residents from supported isolation in Arrowe Park this week.
- Social media team have prepared a series of tweets to counter disinformation spreading online currently.

Key activity and next steps:

- Prof Yvonne Doyle, Director for Health Protection and Medical Director at PHE, has issued a statement confirming two of today's positive UK cases were healthcare workers. In her statement, Prof Doyle advised that all contacts of the patients had been traced and anyone with concerns could call 111.
- Prof Paul Cosford has also recorded a media round to discuss today's cases and this is running across the evening bulletins.

Key media and online activity:

- Across broadcast and online there is widespread reporting of the four new additional cases announced this morning, as well as the introduction of new regulations to control the spread of the virus.
- Coverage has also focussed on the reported closure of a GP surgery in Brighton where it is claimed that a GP has tested positive for Coronavirus.
- There is also some reporting that a school in Southampton has closed as a precautionary measure.
- ITV has also carried PHE's Paul Cosford comments from his media round this evening.