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CRIP

Coronavirus (WN-CoV) – UK Preparedness

COMMONLY RECOGNISED INFORMATION PICTURE

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Contact: Civil Contingencies Secretariat I&S
Information correct as of 0900 Friday 24 January 2020

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Overview

- On 31 December 2019, Chinese authorities notified the World Health Organization of an outbreak of viral pneumonia in Wuhan City. The cause has been identified as a previously unknown coronavirus – Wuhan novel coronavirus (WN-CoV)

Location	Number of confirmed cases	Number of deaths
Mainland China (29 provinces)	830	25
Hong Kong	2	0
Japan	1	0
Macao	2	0
Republic of Korea	1	0
Singapore	3	0
Taiwan	1	0
Thailand	4	0
USA	1	0
Vietnam	2	0
TOTAL	847	25

- On 20 January the Chinese Government confirmed there is evidence of human-to-human transmission, including 15 healthcare workers.
- There have been suggestions that the cause of the outbreak may be an animal disease that can be transmitted to humans. This market was closed on 1 January 2020 for disinfection. WHO testing of environmental samples from the Market has proven positive for the coronavirus.
- The WHO Emergency Committee met on 22-23 January reviewed the situation and determined the outbreak did not currently meet all requirements to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

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Cases in the UK

- 14 people in the UK have tested negative for WN-CoV
- Testing for WN-CoV is in progress for 19 people in the UK
- There are no reports of severe illness

Risk Picture and Trigger Points

Risk to the UK population: LOW

Risk to UK travellers to affected areas of travel: MODERATE

PHE Risk Assessment, 21/01/2020

The following CMO triggers have been met, resulting in the increase in risk assessment on 21 January:

- Significant numbers of healthcare workers are ill or dying
- Sustained human-to-human transmission (i.e. long chains of transmission within a community)

SAGE agreed the following scenarios would trigger a reassessment of the UK response:

- Sustained transmission in a country other than China
- A severe case in the UK

Data related to these triggers are under constant review.

Scientific Advice

Advisory Group	Date Met	Outcomes
NERVTAG	13 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirmed it did not support port of entry temperature screening for the UK.
NERVTAG	21 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirmed port of entry temperature screening is still not advised.
Pre-SAGE	22 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirmed support for port of entry measure implemented by PHE.Agreed temperature and clinical screening on entry are ineffective.Agreed triggers to reassess HMG's response.Agreed with DHSC's criteria for testing (symptomatic travellers from Wuhan)Took an action to comment on PHE's plan for isolating suspected cases and contactsCMO, DHSC and PHE took an action to consider how primary care could support increases in confirmed and suspected cases

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Emergency Committee met on 22 January to discuss whether to declare the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). They decided not to declare a PHEIC. If declared, this gives the WHO Director General powers to issue recommendations to other countries. This decision was adjourned until 23 January.

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China Response

- On 22 January Wuhan authorities issued a notice requiring masks to be worn in public places and by government employees at work.
- At 0200 on 23 January Wuhan authorities announced that from 1000 local time, public transport in and out of the city would be suspended. Local and long-distance buses, subway, ferries are now closed. All trains and flights departing the city have been cancelled (although there are anecdotal reports of some flights still taking off). We understand roads remain open.
- In Wuhan, local reports are that shops and amenities are closed, events are cancelled, public told to avoid crowds and minimise gatherings. China's Civil Aviation Administration confirmed additional measures are being deployed by some airports across China. British Airways confirm that crew and passengers are screened on arrival and departure in Beijing and Shanghai, and that remaining flights arriving from Wuhan are being screened for fever on board.

Domestic UK Response

- Port health measures:
 - Currently being implemented
 - Posters at airports
 - General aircraft declaration (GAD requested) from aircraft prior to landing
 - Leaflets provided on arrival from direct China flights with information on actions if become symptomatic in the next 14 days
 - Existing port health plans for managing symptomatic individuals
 - PHE presence at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester
- This does not include temperature screening. Expert advice is that this is neither efficient or effective for the UK.
- DHSC are also liaising with MHCLG on the location of Chinese diaspora and DEFRA on the current levels of animal imports from China.

International Response

Country	Public informed	Communication to healthcare	Advice for Travellers	Guidance on hygiene measures	Enhanced surveillance	Airport activities	Diagnostic capacity	Intersectoral communication	Recommended travel and/or trade restrictions
Austria	√	√	√	√				√	
Belgium			√				√		×
Bulgaria		√	√						×
Cyprus	√	√	√						×
Czech Republic	√	√	√						×
Denmark	√	√	√	√			√	√	
Estonia		√	√						×
Finland	√	√	√	√	√			√	
France	√		√		√	√		√	
Germany		√	√	√	√			√	
Greece		√	√	√				√	
Ireland	√	√						√	×
Italy	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	×

Key

√	Action done
×	Action not taken
	No information

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International Response

Country	Public informed	Communication to healthcare	Advice for Travellers	Guidance on hygiene measures	Enhanced surveillance	Airport activities	Diagnostic capacity	Intersectoral communication	Recommended travel and/or trade restrictions
Latvia	✓								×
Lithuania	✓	✓							×
Malta	✓	✓	✓						×
Netherlands	✓		✓						
Norway	✓	✓	✓					✓	×
Poland								✓	×
Portugal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	×
Romania		✓	✓					✓	×
Slovakia	✓	✓						✓	×
Slovenia	✓	✓	✓	✓					×
Spain	✓	✓		✓			✓		
Sweden	✓	✓				×			×
United Kingdom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×

Key

✓	Action done
×	Action not taken
	No information

UK Support to International Response

- DHSC and FCO are holding this under review

UK Travel Advice

- There are concerns that the upcoming Lunar New Year, which falls on 25 January, may cause spread of the infection as hundreds of millions of Chinese citizens are expected to travel across the country and overseas to visit family.
- PHE have published advice for travellers in relation to the Lunar New Year.
- FCO updated travel advice on 22nd January as follows:

"The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to Wuhan city, Hubei Province. This is due to the ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak. Public Health England has offered advice to travellers. You should comply with any additional screening measures put in place by the local authorities. For more information and advice, visit the TravelHealthPro website."

- Further update is planned for today (23/01), pending Foreign Secretary approval

"The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against all but essential travel to Wuhan city, Hubei Province. This is due to the ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak. On 23 January the Wuhan authorities closed all transport hubs including airports, railway and bus stations. There are reports of travel restrictions in Ezhou and Huanggang. If you are in Wuhan or elsewhere in China you should comply with any additional screening measures put in place by the local authorities. Public Health England has offered advice to travellers. For more information and advice, visit the TravelHealthPro website. See Health For more information and advice, visit the TravelHealthPro website. See Health"

Communications

- DHSC issued a joint statement with PHE on 22 January, updating on new enhanced monitoring measures
- FCO updated their travel advice on 22 January, including quote from their SofS
- PHE led on bids – Professor Nick Phin was interviewed on all major broadcast outlets
- DHSC and PHE continuing to receive high volume of media interest. Key topics include questions of confirmed cases (rebuttals issued), and questions over screening (clarifications given).
- DHSC have continued to produce additional materials for public information, including posters and leaflets for distribution at airports and proactive social media content
- The Health Secretary delivered an oral statement update in the House of Commons on 23rd January. This has been tweeted and other government departments invited to retweet
- DHSC comms are consistently updating rolling scripts and Q&A

Background - Coronaviruses

- Coronaviruses are common throughout the world
- Illnesses caused by coronaviruses range from the common cold to more serious diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).
- Coronaviruses are zoonotic i.e. they are transmitted between animals and people.
- Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, SARS, kidney failure and death.
- Some coronaviruses can be transmitted from person-to-person, usually after close contact with an infected person.