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CRIP

Coronavirus – UK Preparedness

COMMONLY RECOGNISED INFORMATION PICTURE

CRIP 5

Contact: Civil Contingencies Secretariat **Irrelevant & Sensitive**
Information correct as of 1330 Wednesday 05 February 2020

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Overview – as of 0830 (4 Feb)

I&S	Confirmed cases	31 Jan	Fatalities	31 Jan	Medically Recovered
Mainland China*	24,324	7,719	490	170	635
Australia	13	7	0	0	2
Cambodia	1	0	0	0	
Canada	5	3	0	0	
Finland	1	1	0	0	
France	6	5	0	0	
Germany	18	4	0	0	
Hong Kong	15	10	1	0	
India	3	0	0	0	
Italy	2	0	0	0	
Japan	33	11	0	0	1
Macao	10	7	0	0	
Malaysia	10	7	0	0	
Nepal	1	1	0	0	
Philippines	3	0	1	1	
Russian Federation	2	0	0	0	
Singapore/ Republic of Singapore	24	10	0	0	
South Korea/ Republic of Korea	18	4	0	0	
Spain	1	0	0	0	
Sri Lanka	1	1	0	0	
Sweden	1	0	0	0	
Thailand	25	14	0	0	5
UK	2	2	0	0	
USA	11	5	0	0	
Vietnam/ Viet Nam	10	2	0	0	1
United Arab Emirates	5	4	0	0	
Total	24,533	7,816	492	170	644

- * Mainland China (yesterdays figure included 8 confirmed cases)
- We are currently aware of three cases of human-to-human transmission outside of China (Germany, Japan and USA).

Map of confirmed cases - Global



Confirmed cases: China (24,324), Australia (13), Cambodia (1), Canada (5), France (6), Finland (1), Germany (10), Hong Kong (18), India (2), Italy (2), Japan (33), Macao (10), Malaysia (8), Nepal (1), Philippines (3), Russia (2), Singapore (24), South Korea (18), Spain (1), Sri Lanka (1), Sweden (1), Taiwan (10), Thailand (25), USA (12), Vietnam (7), United Arab Emirates (5), United Kingdom (2)

Total confirmed cases: 24,553
Total deaths: 492

New locations in:



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Page 3

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Cases of UK Nationals

	People being tested	Tests concluded	Confirmed cases
England	Data not provided	412	2
Scotland	Data not provided	30	0
Wales	Data not provided	20	0
Northern Ireland	Data not provided	5	0
Total	Data not provided	467	2

Individuals are assigned geography according to hospital specimen source (not residency)
*to be confirmed by DHSC

Risk Picture and Trigger Points

Risk to the UK population: **MODERATE**

Risk to UK travellers to affected areas of travel: **HIGH**

Advice changed from MODERATE, UK CMOs/PHE Assessment 05/02/2020

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

- Some healthcare workers are infected
- Sustained human-to-human transmission (i.e. long chains of transmission within a community) may be occurring

In conjunction with the World Health Organization's declaration on Friday 31 January that this is a public health emergency of international concern.

The following scenarios would trigger a reassessment of the UK response:

- Sustained transmission in Europe or other countries where UK has close ties
- Clear failure of Chinese measures to reduce spread

Data related to these triggers are under constant review.

UK Travel Advice

- 22 January:** FCO updated travel advice (which includes input from PHE) to advise against all but essential travel to Wuhan City
- 23 January:** Further update to advise against all but essential travel to Wuhan city.
- 26 January:** Travel advice updated to avoid "all travel to the Hubei Province".
- 28 January:** Travel advice was updated to avoid "all but essential travel" to mainland China.
- 29 January:** Travel advice was updated to include information about suspended flights.
- 4 February:** Travel advice was updated to advise BNs in China to leave if they could. As of 5/2 (12:00) it currently reads:

"The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to Hubei Province due to the ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak. The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the rest of mainland China (not including Hong Kong and Macao). The British Consulates-General in Wuhan and Chongqing are currently closed. If you're in China and able to leave, you should do so. The elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions may be at a heightened risk.

The Chinese government continue to impose further restrictions on movement within China in response to the coronavirus outbreak. These restrictions include the closure of some provincial highways and inter-city high speed rail, tight control on entry and exit to villages and townships across the country, and restrictions on movement within some cities and municipalities including Chongqing. Some airlines, including British Airways and Virgin Atlantic, have announced a suspension of flights to and from China. Other commercial airlines are still operating, but it may become harder to access departure options over the coming weeks."

Border Force are currently running data checks and analysis regarding routings and travel to and from China.

This data includes establishing Chinese Nationals with extant leave about to expire, Chinese Nationals arrivals in the UK as well as arrivals in UK including indirect flights.

From 01/02/2020 – 03/02/2020 approximately 9,255 passengers arrived from China and 1,164 from Hong Kong

As a direct comparison from 01/02/2019 - 07/02/2019 approximately 32,614 passengers arrived from China and 23,511 from Hong Kong.

Assisted Departure of Entitled Persons

- 10 British nationals and 4 dependants departed on an Air New Zealand flight at 17:55Z yesterday (04/02/20) and have now landed in Auckland. They will spend 14 days in isolation there before flying back commercially to the UK at HMG expense. BHC Wellington are in touch with them.
- Planning is in progress for the second and final assisted departure on Saturday (08/02/20 GMT) departing Wuhan at 16:30GMT. The latest figures are that 130 British nationals and dependants in Hubei province have requested assistance with leaving China. This flight is planned to arrive on Sunday at Brize Norton at 04:15GMT (09/02/20). No requirement to source Personal Protective Equipment for passengers unless instructed otherwise by DHSC.
- UK transport and isolation facilities for these passengers are being prepared.
- EU/5-Eyes Embassies in Beijing have been approached for expressions of interest in carrying their nationals on this flight if capacity allows. Any such nationals would need to be flown onward by their countries immediately on UK arrival, or processed elsewhere outside the UK (as was done with Spain for the first UK flight). We are in touch with key EU capitals on options.
- The MOD is supporting the assisted departure through a Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT), an in flight medical team and the use of RAF Brize Norton.

Entitled Persons Isolation Plans

- Two successful repatriations of British nationals and dependents completed (31 January 2020 and 2 February 2020)
- Officials are working up plans for a third repatriation exercise for Sunday 9 February 2020 for a further cohort of British nationals and dependents
- Following protocol a single passenger showing symptoms within the second cohort was transferred into the care of the NHS for treatment.
- All asymptomatic passengers have been transferred by coach to fully serviced supported isolation at Arrowe Park in the Wirral
- Full medical support and assistance is available to them and this will be provided throughout their stay.
- Individuals will be monitored daily by public health professionals and anyone exhibiting symptoms will be transferred into the care of the NHS for treatment
- Once individuals have successfully completed a 14 day quarantine period they will be able to leave the isolation facility. **A plan to manage this leaving process is being developed including what health screening will be needed before they leave (PHE to advise) and the support available afterwards if needed (MHCLG and DWP).**
- MHCLG RED has been working closely with the two Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) most affected by the arrivals (containing the airport, and the isolation facility). RED have acted as the link between the local areas and the national level, and continue to liaise across government in order to provide reassurance and support to local partners.
- **MHCLG is supporting DHSC and Merseyside LRF to develop post-isolation release plans for affected individuals currently accommodated at Arrowe Park.**
- **We are in the process of confirming representation from the chair of the Merseyside Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) and the Chief Executive of Wirral Council at a strategic comms call tomorrow, which DHSC are convening, to discuss this.**

Domestic UK Response

Port Health Measures and Passenger Follow-up:

- PHE Health Protection Teams are at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester – 0 passengers have presented.
 - Public health advice posters and leaflets have been sent electronically to all 28 UK International airports and UK Eurostar terminals advising people of symptoms and what to do if they feel unwell.
 - All 8 airlines (direct or indirect) still flying from China (2 have ceased) have agreed to provide:
 - an inflight announcement on direct flights from China
 - a General Aircraft Declaration (GAD) prior to landing
 - public health leaflets on arrival
 - Of the 1,466 passengers that arrived in the UK direct from Wuhan (10th-24th. Jan)
 - 1,107 are now outside the incubation period
 - 197 passengers are within the incubation period and believed to be in the country
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- 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 keeping Local Resilience Forums informed and DEFRA on the current levels of animal imports from China.
 - Two patients in England, who are members of the same family, have tested positive for coronavirus and are receiving specialist NHS care. **Contact tracing of the two patients during their time in the UK is underway.**
 - DHSC have provided an extra service on NHS111 to triage people to public health advisors with specific queries from people with symptoms or who have reported travel in the region

Key conclusions of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)

Understanding of WN-CoV:

- Incubation period likely 5 days (average), but considerable variation across cases. Doubling time is 4-5 days.
- Case fatality rate is currently estimated to be lower than SARS but there are many uncertainties (such as total number of cases and whether there is asymptomatic transmission) which make calculating a specific number difficult.
- SAGE has requested advice on at risk groups and will provide an update next week.
- Current evidence suggests a single point zoonotic outbreak, now sustained by human-to-human transmission. No evidence of ongoing zoonotic transmission (i.e. animal to human).
- Reproductive number (number of expected cases directly generated by one case) est.2-3, in accordance with estimates from Chinese authorities, but uncertain. Duration of infectivity around two weeks, but could be longer.
- Duration of illness is 15-18 days (median) but there is great uncertainty.
- SAGE agreed that HMG should continue to plan using influenza pandemic assumptions. SAGE will keep this under review.

Global spread and modelling:

- The outbreak is likely to peak in Wuhan/Hubei in the next 3-5 weeks. There will be a lag before it peaks in China, then further lags before it peaks elsewhere in the world.
- A delay now in the arrival and spread of WN-CoV in the UK would be beneficial for improving NHS readiness and ability to handle cases. This would not be true later in the year, once the NHS is dealing with fewer upper respiratory cases.
- UK measures such as shutting down public transport and restricting public gatherings would be ineffective in delaying spread of WN-CoV.
- Modelling group SPI-M to produce projections of when the epidemic will peak, as well as other issues, including the impact of closing schools in different outbreak scenarios.
- SAGE agreed that greater sharing of data on the outbreak is essential. HMG should make the case for data sharing at every opportunity.

SAGE contribution

Options for Limiting Transmission

Implications of limiting virus transmission through enhanced border controls:

Scientific Advice

- SAGE agreed that temperature and other forms of screening are unlikely to be of value and have high false positive and false negative rates.
- SAGE will review its position on port screening only if a simple, specific and rapid test becomes available and was deployable at scale across the UK.
- On the expected impact of travel restrictions, SAGE estimates – with limited data – that if the UK reduces imported infections by 50%, this would maybe delay the onset of any epidemic in the UK by about 5 days; 75% would buy 10 additional days; 90% buys 15 additional days; 95%+ buys a month.
- Only a month of additional preparation time for the NHS would be meaningful. It would also be meaningful if the outbreak were pushed out of usual winter respiratory season.
- To prevent imported infections along these lines would require draconian and coordinated measures. Direct flights from China are not the only route for infected individuals to enter the UK.
- 50% reduction is probably about the best that could be achieved with a ban on direct travel from China alone.
- SAGE will seek to refine its estimates through further modelling.

Options for Limiting Transmission

Implications of limiting virus transmission through enhanced border controls:

Economic Impact

- The UK as an open economy is exposed to a slowdown in China and any wider global effects. HMT assess that if the outbreak is largely contained within China, the direct economic consequences for the UK economy are likely to be modest in aggregate terms.
- Limitations on the movement of people into the UK is unlikely to have a significant direct effect on the economy. Limits on the movement of goods would probably have a more material, but still limited direct effect. This effect would grow if the disease is not contained relatively quickly and the measure to contain its spread last for a sustained period of time

Commercial Airlines and Airports:

- Specific costs to UK airports (Heathrow, Gatwick & Manchester) through a drop in passenger throughput.
- Freight: **53,000 tonnes** of air freight arrived into the UK in 2018 on direct air services from China (£5.3bn) & **41,000 tonnes** of air freight departed from the UK on direct air services to China (£8.1bn)
- Impacts for UK & international carriers due to a drop in passenger volumes. Additionally significant operational costs if airlines were required to conduct checks on where passengers had travelled to/from over the previous 14 days (assuming an extra 30 seconds per passenger this would add significantly to the total amount of checking required and create severe delays).

Tourism & Business Connections:

- Chinese tourists represent significant economic benefit to the UK economy, for example a report commissioned by Heathrow Airport calculates the direct Heathrow – China flights contribute around ~£500m to the UK economy per year¹.
- In 2018 there were 37.9 million overseas visitors to the UK, spending £22.9 billion². Chinese visitors made up approximately 1% of these total overseas visitors (391,000)³ yet reports indicate they make up a disproportionate amount of the total visitor spending

RWCS next steps

Proposed objectives

•Priorities in preparing for the Reasonable Worst Case Scenario are:

- a) To protect life,
- b) Maintain life as normal in the UK,
- c) Limit economic impact to the UK, and;
- d) Ensure dignified treatment of those who die

Planning activity

•All departments and Devolved Administrations should begin putting together their RWCS plan, building on work already done for a flu pandemic.

The aim is to transfer thinking from Pandemic Flu contingency planning to a response tailored to this specific virus.

•DHSC and the CMO should start to coordinate proposals for any medical interventions, focusing on those which might require early procurement decisions.

•CCS should coordinate work with departments on what legislative easements may be required in the RWCS.

• A Ministerial Table-top exercise is planned for 12th February as part of preparedness and rehearsal. **The exercise plans to focus on decision making in 3 key areas: Management of excess deaths, hospital management, and staff absence rates and its impact on essential services.**

Communications

• Early planning should not be referred to in public communications.

• **There is a need for a coordinated communication planning across Whitehall and the Devolved Administrations to support the escalation of planning.**

The above objectives and next steps were agreed at COBR (M) 29/01/19

Detailed information relating to RWCS planning activity is provided in a separate slide pack.

CCS contribution

Options for Limiting Transmission

Implications of limiting virus transmission through enhanced border controls:

Supply Chain Impact

- BEIS is working with its sectors, regulators and trade associations to understand this risk on supply chains from enhanced border controls. A detailed assessment of the impact may be difficult to quantify with any degree of certainty. Many companies do not disclose or know the proportion of components/materials that are sourced from China.
- In the short-term, manufacturing companies are likely to have sufficient inventory to continue with normal production schedules as inventories are typically increased ahead of Chinese New Year. BEIS are writing to industry stakeholders with further information this week, specifically requesting that they pause any running down of their EU exit stockpiles.
- The water industry uses four chemicals supplied from China, however, China is not the sole provider of these chemicals.
- A Continuity of Supply response group (consisting of DHSC, NHSE, PHE and MHRA) for medicines and medical products has been set up to manage supply of products and to support any response required. The group is also considering the potential mid to long term impacts of the outbreak in China and the control measures being applied by the Chinese authorities.
- DHSC is contacting industry stakeholders with a China touchpoint in their supply chain to understand what action they are taking to respond to Chinese Government restrictions and whether they have any products of concern
- China accounts for approximately 4% of all international air freight arriving into the UK. Based on HMRC data the largest contributor to imports is telecoms equipment at just under £2bn in 2018. Other important categories are clothing (£479m) and ADP (dialysis) machines (£669m).

RWCS next steps

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CCS contribution

Scenarios for cross-government planning

1) China has a major outbreak but brings it under control ($R < 1$). There are cases seeded out to other countries, including almost certainly the UK, but these do not lead to sustained onward transmission (there may be a few secondary cases). The main aim is ensure we do not have outbreaks from index travellers, so that if the epidemic is brought under control it has had minimal impact on the UK.

2) The opposite end of the risk scale and our reasonable worst case scenario of R of 2-3, mortality of maybe 2% (based on current data but wide confidence around both of these and all numbers), a doubling time currently of maybe 3-5 days and an incubation period of mean 5d, this could within the next few weeks become widespread and turn into a significant pandemic relatively quickly. Currently it looks as if most (probably the great majority) of the mortality is in older people or those with pre-existing health conditions, but this is still an appreciable mortality, and above that for example seen in the 2009 H1N1 (swine flu) pandemic.

COBR(M) agreed on 29 January 2020 that departments would plan for Pan Flu RWCS.

CMO and SAGE will continue to review whether the planning assumptions for the pan flu RWCS are appropriate for this scenario as more data emerges.

Communications

Strategy

- Coronavirus continues to feature on broadcast bulletins. The main focus is on the final FCO repatriation flight and increasingly on British passengers quarantined on the Japanese cruise ship.
- Queries to DHSC media team continue to focus on the repatriation of British nationals; the status of individuals being held in supported isolation; the possibility of an individual leaving Arrowe Park; and news that a Belgian national on the second repatriation flight has now been diagnosed with Coronavirus.
- The number of UK nationals on the cruise ship hasn't yet been widely reported, there is currently a focus on individual passengers with both Sky and BBC running an interview with one. We expect the coverage of this to increase throughout the day particularly with another cruise ship in Hong Kong being quarantined.
- In print, almost all national headlines, including Daily Mail, Times and the Independent, focus on the Foreign SoS's message to British citizens in China to 'get out if you can', made yesterday in the House of Commons. Matt Hancock's meeting with German Health ministers including his comments that we haven't seen the 'peak' of the virus, were widely carried across nationals as were yesterday's announcements of an extra £20m in research funding. The FCO are seeking to do proactive news stories to cover medical supplies (such as masks) being sent to China, a list of carriers flying out of China and a video message prior to passengers embarking on the next flight.

Communications

Social Media

- There is continued coverage of changes to Travel Advice on 4 Feb (peaking yesterday afternoon).
- Online activity has dropped considerably compared to its peak on Friday, but there is growing discussion of discrimination towards Chinese nationals in the UK.

Public Messaging

- A UK wide advertising campaign launched earlier this week is providing clear advice to the public on how to slow the potential spread of Coronavirus and reduce the impact on NHS services. This week PHE announced the Coronavirus genome had been successfully sequenced. The Government also pledged an additional £20m via a rapid research call by UKRI and DHSC via the National Institute for Health Research Projects will contribute to the understanding, diagnosis, prevention and management of coronavirus.
- SoS Matt Hancock undertook a morning media round today across broadcast and radio, off the back of FCO's announcement on a final repatriation flight, where he discussed the options available to British citizens in China.

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.