

 GIG CYMRU NHS WALES	Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales	Name of Meeting Board Date of Meeting 24 January Agenda item: <i>Board or Committee</i> <i>Secretariat to insert</i>
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Approval/Scrutiny route:	
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Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To update the Board on the actions being taken in response to Wuhan novel coronavirus (WN-CoV)

Recommendation:				
APPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/>	ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/>	ASSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Board is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive assurance that appropriate action is being taken in response to the developing enhanced incident relating to Wuhan novel coronavirus (WN-CoV) 				

Link to Public Health Wales Strategic Plan Public Health Wales has an agreed strategic plan, which has identified seven strategic priorities and well-being objectives. This report contributes to the following:	
Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective	5 - Protecting the public from infection and environmental threats to health
Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective	Choose an item.
Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective	Choose an item.
Summary impact analysis	
Equality and Health Impact Assessment	
Risk and Assurance	
Health and Care Standards	This report supports and/or takes into account the Health and Care Standards for NHS Wales Quality Themes Theme 2 - Safe Care Theme 3 - Effective Care Theme 5 - Timely Care
Financial implications	None at present
People implications	None at present

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board on the actions being taken in response to Wuhan novel coronavirus (WN-CoV)

2. Background

In presenting the information it should be noted that this is a new and rapidly evolving situation with additional information being received daily. The following provides background and a summary of the latest position. It is important to note that the information is taken from the Gov.uk website (last update 22nd January 2020) and the latest (8th) Public Health England /4 Nation Situational Report (dated 22nd January 2020).

On 31 December 2019, WHO was informed by the People's Republic of China of [cases of pneumonia of unknown microbial aetiology associated with Wuhan](#), Hubei Province, central China.

On 9 January 2020, [WHO announced that a novel coronavirus](#) had been detected in patient samples in Wuhan.

WN-CoV infection is classified as an airborne [high consequence infectious disease](#) (HCID) in the UK.

Public Health Wales were invited to attend a 4 Nation enhanced incident management meeting (IMT) on the 9th January 2020 and health protection colleagues have attended each IMT since. The IMT is currently meeting on a daily rhythm, which will be kept under review. An official daily Situational Awareness report is received at the end of each working day.

Details in relation to the virology, transmission and clinical features of the infection are still emerging. The latest information is summarized in Appendix 1.

3. Description/Assessment

Epidemiology as of 22/1/20

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed of a [cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause](#) detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. On [12 January 2020](#) it was announced that a novel coronavirus had been identified in samples

Date: 22 January 2020	Version: 0a	Page: 3 of 8
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obtained from cases and that initial analysis of virus genetic sequences suggested that this was the cause of the outbreak.

As of 22 January 2020 (13:00), 440 cases of illness and 9 fatalities have been officially reported by the Chinese National Health Commission from mainland China. Most but not all cases had been or are in Wuhan city.

Information to date indicates that human to human transmission is occurring. To date, 15 health care workers are reported to have been infected.

There are 6 confirmed cases internationally outside of mainland china. (2 Thailand; 1 Republic of Korea; 1 Japan; 1 Taiwan; 1 USA)

In the UK (including Wales) there are currently no confirmed cases. There have been 5 possible cases. 2 have tested negative as of 22/01/20 and 3 are being tested with results expected on 22/01/20.

The number of queries and suspect cases are increasing. Due to the enlarging geographic area affected, and evidence of transmission, it is increasingly likely that suspected cases (those with an appropriate clinical picture and travel or contact exposure) will be identified in the UK, including Wales.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment was reviewed and provisionally updated on 21/01/20
Current impact of the disease is: **Moderate**

Based on current limited information on the transmission of disease;

The risk to the UK population is considered: **Low**

The risk to UK travellers to affected areas of China is: **Moderate**

Guidance and Management

NHS Wales has plans in place for responding to High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID).

Public Health England (PHE) serves as the UK's co-ordinating lead under International Health Regulations. Public Health Wales is working closely with Welsh Government, PHE and the other UK public health agencies, to carefully monitor the situation in Wuhan and to support activity to put in place proportionate, precautionary measures.

An internal Public Wales Incident Management Team has been established as of 22/01/20 and has put in place a daily meeting rhythm with CMO Wales team.

Published Guidance has been available since 10/01/20
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

Initial guidance for NHS Wales has already been circulated via PHW and further briefings and advice are being prepared.

This includes Primary care guidance which has been developed and approved and is being sent out in Wales on 23/01/20.

UK Port Health

Port health measures are being developed and implemented to identify cases as early as possible. Minimising the time between onset of infection and appropriate isolation is important to prevent transmission.

There is only 1 airport receiving direct flights from Wuhan - 3 flights a week to London Heathrow (LHR). The bulk of travel from Wuhan to the UK occurs via this route (80% of all passengers arrive via the direct flight to LHR and if indirect flights are included then 94% of passengers arrive via LHR). For in-direct flights, the main points of arrival into the UK are LHR followed by Manchester.

A range of enhanced measures have and will continue to be introduced for key airports receiving direct flights, commencing with London Heathrow, which receives direct flights from Wuhan. These measures are described in the media release referenced below.

Cardiff Airport does not receive direct flights from Wuhan but PHW have commenced proportionate discussions.

Global response

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is due to hold its first meeting of the Emergency Committee on this novel coronavirus on 22 January 2020. Following this meeting the WHO Director will decide whether to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

WHO will declare a PHEIC if they decide a coordinated international response is needed to improve surveillance, the detection of infections and to expedite the development of diagnostic tests and vaccines to protect people at risk.

WHO does not currently recommend any restriction on travel and/or trade based on the current available information. Travel advice is under regular review.

Communication

Proactive press releases were made on 22nd January 2020, by Department of Health and Social Security and Public Health England. This was complimented by a press release by Public Health Wales (attached), and a Welsh language radio interview.

A communication strategy is being developed, with further planned communications to NHS Wales, Port Health Authorities and other groups.

Public Health Wales web based information is signposting to official UK and PHE information links, this will be constantly reviewed with plans for Wales Q and A resources underway.

4. Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- **Receive assurance** that appropriate action is being taken in response to the developing enhanced incident relating to Wuhan novel coronavirus (WN-CoV).

Appendix 1

Wuhan novel coronavirus: virology and clinical features

Virology

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses with some causing less-severe disease, such as the common cold, and others causing more severe disease such as Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) coronaviruses.

Nomenclature

PHE is currently using the name Wuhan novel coronavirus (WN-CoV), in the absence of internationally accepted names for the virus and the disease/syndrome it causes.

Characterisation of the WN-CoV is ongoing. Initial information shared by China and WHO indicates that [WN-CoV is a beta-coronavirus](#) that is genetically similar to SARS-like coronaviruses obtained from bats in Asia.

Transmission

The source of the outbreak has yet to be determined. Preliminary investigations identified environmental samples positive for WN-CoV in Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan City, however some laboratory-confirmed patients did not report visiting this market. A zoonotic source to the outbreak has not been identified yet, but investigations are ongoing.

Although evidence is still emerging, information to date indicates human-to-human transmission is occurring. Hence, precautions to prevent human-to-human transmission are appropriate for both suspected and confirmed cases ([see infection prevention and control guidance](#)). WN-CoV infections have been reported in health care workers in China.

We do not know the routes of transmission of WN-CoV; however, other coronaviruses are mainly transmitted by large respiratory droplets and direct or indirect contact with infected secretions. In addition to respiratory secretions, other coronaviruses have been detected in blood, faeces and urine.

Under certain circumstances, airborne transmission of other coronaviruses is thought to have occurred via unprotected exposure to aerosols of respiratory secretions and sometimes faecal material.

Clinical features

Initial clinical findings from patients to date have been shared by China and WHO. Fever, cough or chest tightness, and dyspnoea are the main symptoms reported. While most cases report a mild illness, severe are also being reported, some of whom require intensive care. A small number of fatalities have been reported.

A variety of abnormalities may be expected on chest radiographs, but bilateral lung infiltrates appear to be common (similar to what is seen with other types of viral pneumonia).

The WHO has issued [interim guidance on the clinical management of suspected cases](#).

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