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secmsgreply

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Sent: 16/01/2020 12:27:03

Subject: Highly Confidential email from PHW Executive

Sent on behalf of Quentin Sandifer**To Public Health Wales Board and executive team members****HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Board members

This email is TO INFORM Non-Executive Directors and FOR ON-CALL AWARENESS to Executive colleagues.

Public Health Wales was notified yesterday afternoon of a 67-year-old female, Welsh resident in North Wales, currently under investigation for possible coronavirus infection. The individual has been transferred to specialist facilities in Liverpool from the Countess of Chester Hospital.

She has reported a history of flu-like illness for the last two weeks and presented to her GP yesterday. The individual also reported that her husband works in Wuhan City, China and was visiting North Wales between 21 and 29 December 2019 and has since returned to Wuhan. She further reported that the husband is being investigated for the same infection in China but results are not yet available.

We are informing you at this time, as I did several years ago when Ebola was in the news, because of global media and public health interest in what has been referred to as 'undiagnosed flu illness' reported in China over the last four weeks. International interest is heightened because the Chinese New Year is just over a week away, when we can expect large domestic and international movements of Chinese nationals. This has been identified as a novel coronavirus but the epidemiology and pathology have yet to be fully determined. Last weekend international health authorities designated the infection as an 'airborne high consequence infectious disease' although human-to-human transmission has yet to be proven as I write.

As with any other high consequence infectious disease that might be imported to the UK the management of this event is coordinated by PHE as an 'enhanced UK-level response' under international health regulations. Proactive public communication is NOT planned but a reactive media strategy has been agreed with PHE.

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