



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE**

Y Grŵp Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
Education and Public Services Group

10 March 2020

Local Resilience Forum Chairs

By e-mail

Dear Colleagues

**CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH THE CORONAVIRUS  
(COVID-19) OUTBREAK**

Given the increasing spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), our current approach is to maintain operational planning for any and all possible outcomes, including a reasonable worst case scenario. The Health and Social Services Minister will be meeting Local Authority Leaders and the Leaders of Fire Authorities, along with the General Secretary of the TUC on Thursday to discuss the implications of COVID-19 in more detail. The matter will also be discussed at the Wales Policing Board chaired by the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip tomorrow.

COVID-19 is a significant event and consequently the Emergency Co-ordination Centre (Wales) (ECC(W)) has been operating to support the health planning function for some time. This joint working ensures we have strong situational awareness arrangements and can provide timely and accurate information to enable rapid, evidence based decision-making.

From tomorrow the Centre will operate from 07.00 – 19.00, Monday to Friday. We will keep this under review and any change in activation arrangements will be shared as a matter of urgency.

*Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.*

*We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.*

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We are having daily engagement with the all relevant Welsh, and UK-wide departments in order to ensure we are kept fully informed of developments and this includes regular COBR meetings at Ministerial level.

We must continue our planning to ensure we are prepared for any possible eventuality. We will seek your support in those preparations along with your help with implementing situational awareness processes; identifying issues and concerns; and devising responses. In order to be ready, our planning activity must be maintained.

If the situation changes, the Resilience Team will provide more details of our planning arrangements as they arise. If you do have any issues you would like to raise with us at this stage, please contact the Team on [emergencies.security@gov.wales](mailto:emergencies.security@gov.wales)

I will be in touch with you again shortly and, if possible, I would like to meet to discuss the situation in more detail and look at how we can work together to provide the necessary support to Ministers and public services going forward.


Yours sincerely,

PD

**REG KILPATRICK**  
DIRECTOR FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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