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Subject: RE: FM lines to take on Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Please find enclosed latest lines on Coronavirus (2019-nCoV):

Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

- The UK has seen a small number of cases of novel coronavirus to date. The UK Chief Medical Officers have advised that the risk to the UK is currently moderate.
- A number of people across Wales have already been assessed and to date there have been no imported cases of the novel coronavirus to Wales. UK figures are published daily on the Public Health England website (we are not commenting on the number of people tested in Wales).
- The evolving novel coronavirus outbreak, the increasing number of countries reporting cases and the change to the case definition have led to a significant increase in individuals requiring assessment and testing. The aim is to manage as many people as possible outside hospital Emergency Departments. Yesterday the Chief Medical Officer wrote to health boards advising on the importance of immediate implementation of community assessment and testing services and the establishment of Coronavirus Testing Units separate from Emergency Departments.
- The UK Government has introduced legislation with the primary purpose of enforcing supported isolation in England. The Minister for Health and Social Services is considering whether our current legislation is sufficient to protect the wider public from coronavirus or whether we need to make equivalent provisions in Wales.
- UK Government Departments have worked together to successfully repatriate people to the UK and these are now accommodated in supported isolation for any medical needs that they may have and to protect the public. These are British nationals and entitled individuals - it is not appropriate to comment on their residency within the 4 nations.
- The Minister for Health and Social Services has ensured there is no financial barrier to overseas visitors in Wales being given NHS hospital treatment for novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) through the introduction of regulations with immediate effect.
- UK Health Ministers, Chief Medical Officers and public health agencies across the 4 Nations are co-ordinating actions so that Wales and the UK are ready to respond to further developments in this public health incident.
- The Minister for Health and Social Services is providing a weekly statement to AMs - the latest was published earlier today. The Chief Medical Officer for Wales is providing regular updates – including a personal briefing for AMs which took place earlier today.
- All travellers who develop flu-like symptoms however mild, (these symptoms could be a fever, a cough, or difficulty breathing) within 14 days of returning from mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau should self-isolate at home immediately and call the NHS. They should call NHS Direct Wales on 0845 46 47 or phone 111

Wales. All travellers from Wuhan and Hubei province should self-isolate for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms, due to the increased risk from that area.

- Posters and leaflets on the novel coronavirus have been sent to universities and colleges of higher education in Wales. Posters are also available in airports and ports to alert travellers to current advice.
- The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all but essential travel to mainland China (not including Hong Kong and Macao) and all travel to Hubei province due to the ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak. Further information including contact numbers for assistance is available on the FCO website.
- Healthcare workers use specialist personal protective equipment – including facemasks – where it is clinically appropriate to do so, and receive specific training in its use. There is insufficient evidence to suggest that there is any benefit to members of the general public from wearing a facemask.

Background

Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) has been designated an airborne High Consequence Infectious Disease.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses with some causing less-severe disease, such as the common cold, and others more severe disease such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Although the epidemiology of the new coronavirus is still being assessed data to date suggests that approximately 20% of confirmed cases result in severe illness and that the mortality rate is far less than that for MERS and SARS.

Thanks

NR

Y Gangen Polisi a Deddfwriaeth Amddiffyn Iechyd / Health Protection Policy and Legislation Branch
Is-adran Iechyd y Cyhoedd / Public Health Division
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Os hoffech dderbyn ohebiaeth yn yr iaith Gymraeg neu os hoffech dderbyn unrhyw ohebiaeth yn y dyfodol drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, gadewch i mi wybod.

If you wish to receive correspondence in the Welsh language, or you wish any further correspondence to be in the Welsh language, please let me know.

