

- The NHS is working hard to contain the virus and we are confident it is well prepared to cope with an outbreak, but we must be prepared for this to get worse before it gets better. We have been clear from the outset that we expect coronavirus to have some impact on the UK and a global pandemic could have a pronounced effect on the NHS, which is why we are planning for every eventuality.
- We have always said it is likely we can expect more cases, and we are working hard to handle this increase through our four phased approach – contain, delay, mitigate, and research. An approach designed by world leading experts.
- Our action plan is a framework that outlines the types of options open to government in each of these four phases. But this document is only a list of the types of measures we could consider – not those we are planning to implement.
- There is also strong role that we can all play as citizens, as service users and providers, and of course as family members, friend and employers.
- We have launched a major public information campaign setting out clear steps the public can take to limit the spread of the virus. This reinforces the importance of washing your hands more often - when you come in from home or work, after you blow your nose, cough or sneeze, and before you eat or handle food. This should be for 20 seconds, using soap and water or hand sanitiser. You should cough or sneeze into tissues before binning them to also prevent the spread of the virus.
- This campaign will mean each and every member of the public can be clear on what the Government is doing to tackle the virus and what they can do to protect themselves and their families – backed by the best available science.
- Misinformation is our greatest enemy as we work to contain the virus – the action plan and public health campaign is intended to counter misinformation online and cement our official advice.
- As the virus accelerates overseas the Government is continuing to ramp up its efforts in this country, but action is now needed from the public to keep us safe and help our NHS.

New Coronavirus Action Plan:

- On 3 March we launched our Public Action Plan.
- The action plan provides information on the government's plans to contain the spread of coronavirus and what action could be taken if the virus does spread.
- The document provides the public with information on:
 - the government's plans to contain the spread of the virus
 - how action will develop as the virus spreads
 - what people can do to protect themselves and their families
- The plan also includes information on the government's 4-stage strategy to: contain, delay, research, mitigate. It sets out advice for how the public should respond in each stage, including what to expect if the outbreak becomes a pandemic.