

Statement for Brighton and Hove

The NHS in Brighton and Hove and Public Health England (PHE) are extremely well prepared for outbreaks of new infectious diseases. The NHS has put in place measures to ensure the safety of all patients and NHS staff while also ensuring services are available to the public as normal.

The risk to the general public is very low, unless you have recently returned from or transited through Wuhan, Hubei province, mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau, or been in close contact with an individual with confirmed coronavirus.

Anyone who has travelled to China or the places listed above in the last 14 days and develops symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, should immediately:

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu
- Call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the country

Information for the public is available at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Like the common cold, coronavirus infection usually occurs through close contact with a person with novel coronavirus via cough and sneezes or hand contact. A person can also be infected by touching contaminated surfaces if they do not wash their hands.

The risk of being in close contact with a person with coronavirus or contaminated surfaces is very low at the current time, as members of the public who have visited Wuhan, Hubei province, China are currently in isolation.

Testing of suspected coronavirus cases is carried out in line with strict regulations. This means that suspected cases are kept in isolation, away from public areas of the hospital and returned home also in isolation. Any equipment and staff that come into contact with suspected cases are thoroughly cleaned. Patients can be reassured that their safety is a top priority, and are encouraged to attend all appointments as usual.

Following the announcement that an individual in the Brighton and Hove area has been confirmed as having the coronavirus, PHE is carrying out a thorough risk assessment to trace this individual's movements in the last fortnight. The local NHS and Brighton and Hove Council are working closely with PHE to support this work. PHE is prioritising contacting people who might have had close and sustained contact with the individual to provide them with health advice about symptoms and

emergency contact details in case they become unwell. If you have not been contacted you do not need to take any action.

Everyone is being reminded to follow Public Health England advice to:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

You can find the latest information and advice from Public Health England at www.gov.uk/coronavirus