

Coronavirus: actions and precautions

(correct as of 25th February 2020)

The coronavirus epidemic continues to develop and the situation globally and in the UK is changing on a daily basis. The information below reflects current UK advice at the time of writing but this is subject to change as new scientific information is gathered.

Within the UK advice is issued primarily by [Public Health England \(PHE\)](#), the government body whose responsibilities include control of infectious diseases of all kinds in the UK.

On an individual level

Anyone who has travelled to the UK in the last 14 days from the Hubei province of China must at once stay indoors and call the [NHS 111 service](#). They must do this even if they feel totally well.

Anyone who has travelled to the UK since February 19th from:

- Iran
- specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Italian government
- special care zones in South Korea as defined by the Korean government

must at once stay indoors and call the NHS 111 service. They must do this even if they feel totally well.

Anyone who has travelled to the UK in the last 14 days from China, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, or Macau and has symptoms of a cough and/or a fever and/or shortness of breath must at once stay indoors and call the NHS 111 service.

If these individuals feel well there is no restriction upon them, and no need for immediate action, but should they develop the symptoms listed within the 14-day period they must act as above.

Anyone who has travelled to the UK from these areas since February 19th and develop any symptoms of cough and/or fever and/or shortness of breath, no matter how mild, must at once stay indoors, isolate themselves, and call the NHS 111 service: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar Northern Italy (not including Pisa, Florence and Rimini).

Anyone who has travelled from these areas who has no symptoms needs to take no special action and may lead a normal life. Should symptoms develop, however, they must at once follow the above guidance.

Travel

The [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#) currently advises against all travel to Hubei province and all but essential travel to the whole of mainland China or to Daegu and Cheongdo in South Korea.

MOHS advises client companies not to permit their employees to travel on business to mainland China or South Korea. Similarly, companies should not host visitors from mainland China or South Korea.

In the event of an employee contracting the virus

As part of the PHE infection control response, if one of your employees contracts the infection there will be a contact tracing exercise undertaken by PHE. This will include work contacts. PHE officers will visit your premises and assess the risk to other people. There is an established risk assessment protocol on what action the contacts should take depending on the degree of contact they have had with the infected person. In general workplace contacts would be regarded as being at low risk (unless, as an example, someone worked in close proximity to the individual for a prolonged time), and as such if they were entirely well and free from any symptoms they would be advised to self-monitor for the development of symptoms but take no other action, and no restriction would be placed upon them. High risk contacts may be advised to refrain from social contact (including work) for 14 days, but PHE officers would advise on a case by case basis. Any contact with symptoms will be isolated.

Disinfection

PHE has issued guidance on the disinfection measures which must be taken to ensure any area the infected person has been in is made safe (including the workplace if necessary). These specify in detail the use of protective equipment by the cleaners, the types of disinfectant to be used, and the process to be followed. PHE states definitively that once this disinfection process has taken place there is no residual risk to others using the area. Again, PHE will advise on a case by case basis what should be done when they visit the workplace.

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