

This briefing is intended to provide the latest position on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

National context

Government advice has been updated in the last 24 hours to take account of the developing situation in Italy, and other countries.

While the UK Chief Medical Officers continue to advise that the risk to the public is moderate, with the risk to individuals remaining low, updated [guidance](#) for travellers and visitors arriving in the UK from specified countries and areas has been issued.

There are a small number of confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK, including the most recent, which are linked to passengers on the Diamond Princess cruise ship.

Experts at Public Health England continue to actively trace UK patients' contacts, to ensure appropriate support is provided.

Local context

While there are **no** confirmed cases in Hampshire, the County Council's Public Health and Emergency Planning teams continue to work closely together to **monitor the situation**, in conjunction with external partners and health colleagues - to **ensure multi-agency preparedness**.

There are three aspects to this work – to ensure that:

- the potential impacts on the County Council are mitigated as far as possible;
- the County Council's business continuity plans can be invoked, if required, in order to ensure the ongoing delivery of **critical services**;
- key stakeholder groups and the public receive the most up to date messages in line with national guidance.

At present, unless specifically advised by Public Health England or NHS 111 in relation to travel or contact with a confirmed case of Coronavirus, Members should go about their normal duties and need not take any further action.

However, the situation is developing, and Members are asked to keep themselves well informed by regularly checking www.nhs.uk/coronavirus for the latest updates.

Public messages

The County Council is issuing regular messages to a range of audiences. This includes:

- Signposting the public to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus in line with national advice;
- Issuing updated guidance to all educational setting including schools, as well as adult social care providers. This reflects the new advice in relation to travel from Italy. In addition, all Hampshire schools have

been advised to contact their local Public Health England Health Protection Team if they are concerned about a child who may meet the criteria for taking action following travel to an affected area.

The Public Health and Emergency Planning teams, working with Children's Services continue to actively respond to enquiries from schools and other groups, particularly in relation to the travel advice for parts of Italy.

- Publishing messages to Hampshire residents on the [County Council's webpages](#) and via the Authority's social media feeds, including *Twitter* and *Facebook*;
- Sharing messages focusing on how people can help protect themselves against the spread of **all** viruses by adopting good [hand hygiene](#) practices;
- Asking partner organisations to review business continuity plans to ensure they are fit for purpose, should the situation change.

Regular updates

Further updates will be issued as required

