**Information about COVID-19 – Novel Coronavirus (19th February 2020)**

***Current situation***

Two new blogs have just been published with key questions and answers about COVID-19, the novel Coronavirus, and information about contact tracing:

Blog - what you need to know   
<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Blog about contact tracing:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/13/expert-interview-what-is-contact-tracing/>

To date there are nine patients in England who have tested positive for COVID-19 to date, none of whom are in the West Midlands region. Of the remaining 4916 tests that have been undertaken in the UK, all have been confirmed as negative.

The risk to individuals in the UK remains low.

***Key advice for returning travellers***

Detailed information and advice for the public is now being hosted on the NHS.uk website and can be found here (this will be regularly updated):

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Further information for the public about the situation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

***Travel advice***

Current advice is against all travel to Hubei province, and all but essential travel to the rest of mainland China (with the exception of Hong Kong and Macao). British nationals are also now advised to leave China if they are able.

Updated travel advice can be found here (this is regularly updated):

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>

***Communications materials, useful guidance & resources***

Guidance for health and care providers with staff who have travelled to China or other specified countries/have had contact with suspected/confirmed cases:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-guidance-for-healthcare-providers-with-staff-who-have-travelled-to-china/guidance-for-healthcare-providers-healthcare-workers-who-have-travelled-to-china>

Guidance for professionals advising the public can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-guidance-to-assist-professionals-in-advising-the-general-public/guidance-to-assist-professionals-in-advising-the-general-public>

A national campaign has been launched with clear messages for returning travellers and members of the public about COVID-19, the importance of handwashing, and “catch it, bin it, kill it” messages. These messages are important not just for Coronavirus, but also other viruses that circulate at this time of year. Resources (including Chinese versions) can be found at the link below. A primary care briefing is also now included:

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-novel-coronavirus-/resources>