

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Important update

It has been announced by the UK/Scottish Government that as of 16 March anyone developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, however mild, should stay at home for 7 days from the onset of symptoms as per existing advice. In addition, it is now recommended that anyone living in the same household as a symptomatic person should self-isolate for 14 days after the first household member first gets symptoms.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

Information for the public on COVID-19, including stay at home advice for people who are self-isolating, can be found on [NHS Inform](#).

Further, people are advised to take social distancing measures to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. In particular, this is strongly advised for people aged 70 or over,

people with underlying medical conditions and pregnant women. Further advice on these measures will be available on NHS Inform shortly.

Important note: HPS is updating its guidance in line with this change.

Background

In late December 2019, the People's Republic of China reported an outbreak of pneumonia due to unknown cause in Wuhan City, Hubei Province.

In early January 2020, the cause of the outbreak was identified as a new coronavirus. While early cases were likely infected by an animal source in a 'wet market' in Wuhan, ongoing human-to-human transmission is now occurring.

There are a number of coronaviruses that are transmitted from human-to-human which are not of public health concern. However COVID-19 can cause respiratory illness of varying severity. Currently, there is no vaccine and no specific treatment for infection with the virus.

On the 30 January 2020 the World Health Organization [declared that the outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern](#).

The collection of resources on this page contains information and advice on COVID-19.

Travel advice

Advice for returning travellers

Please go to [NHS Inform website](#) for the most up-to-date information and advice.

Guidance for travellers

For the general public who are planning to travel abroad, guidance can be found on [fitfortravel](#). Where a COVID-19 risk is identified then country pages will be updated.

For health professionals who are advising travellers, guidance can be found on [TRAVAX](#). Where a COVID-19 risk is identified then country pages will contain updated guidance.

Infection prevention and control in healthcare settings

- [COVID-19 - Guidance for infection prevention and control in healthcare settings](#)
- [Rapid Review of the literature: Assessing the infection prevention and control measures for the prevention and management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings](#) (last updated 19 March 2020)

This rapid review provides an assessment of the scientific evidence base to determine if the infection prevention and control measures applied in Scotland are suitable for the prevention and management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings. As this is a rapid review, the methodology differs from that of the NIPCM. The evidence will be updated real-time.

- [Aerosol Generating Procedures \(AGPs\)](#) (last updated 11 March 2020)

This National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) literature review informs the recommendations for transmission based precautions required for aerosol generating procedures.

The methodology for NIPCM reviews is found within the 'Development Process' section of the NIPCM.

Other guidance for use in Scotland

If our understanding of COVID-19 changes then guidance will be updated. Always check this website to ensure that any guidance you are using is the latest version.

Initial investigation of possible cases

Healthcare settings

- [Guidance for Health Protection Teams \(HPTs\)](#) (last updated 16 March 2020)
- [Guidance for primary care](#) (last updated 20 March 2020)
- [Guidance for secondary care](#) (last updated 20 March 2020)
- [Guidance for sampling and laboratory investigations](#) (last updated 26 February 2020)
 - [Algorithm summarising sampling and laboratory investigations](#) (last updated 26 February 2020)
 - [COVID-19 packaging of diagnostic samples for onward transportation](#) (last updated 8 March 2020)

Advice for other settings

- [Guidance for non-healthcare settings](#) (last updated 20 March 2020)
- [Information and guidance for social or community care & residential settings](#) (last updated 20 March)
- [Advice for pharmacies](#) (last updated 18 March)
- Advice for dental teams (currently being updated)
- [Advice for opticians and optometrists](#) (last updated 18 March)

First responders

- [Guidance for first responders and others in close contact with symptomatic people with potential COVID-19](#) (last updated 27 February 2020)

Further information

- [Scottish Government - COVID-19 Scottish test numbers](#)
- [Public Health England \(PHE\) - COVID-19 background information](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\) – COVID-19](#)

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