

The risk to the UK population: **HIGH**

Response to Prime Minister's press conference

Following the Prime Minister's press conference yesterday where he [announced a number of measures](#) aimed at managing the Coronavirus outbreak, we are assessing what the implications are for us as an organisation and the impact on our staff and our residents.

Our priorities at this time are to ensure that we do everything we can to reduce the pressure on the NHS, to protect our most vulnerable communities, and support our staff and residents.

As public servants providing essential frontline services, our organisation needs to properly work through the guidance coming from Government and from Public Health England.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE - UK

As of 9am, 16th March

A total of 44,105 people had been tested in the UK

42,562 were confirmed negative

1,543 positive

England	1196
Scotland	171
Wales	124
N. Ireland	52

55 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 have sadly died

What to do if you have symptoms

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

If you or anyone in your household has either of these symptoms Then you should **stay at home for 14 days**

For most people coronavirus will be a mild illness.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital

Visit [NHS.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) to **check your symptoms** and follow the medical advice

If you have symptoms, **avoid contact with older and more vulnerable people**

Visit the [111 website](https://www.111.nhs.uk/) rather than calling

Useful Links

Guidance

NEW [Guidance for schools and other educational settings](#)

NEW ['Stay at Home Guidance' for people with confirmed or possible coronavirus](#)

[Coronavirus – 'What You Need to Know' – FAQ for the public](#)

[Guidance for health professionals and other organisations](#)

[Adult Social Care guidance to protect the most vulnerable](#)

[Guidance for social and community settings](#)

[Guidance for prisons and other prescribed places of detention](#)

[Guidance for employers and businesses on providing advice to staff](#)

[Countries affected by coronavirus](#)

[Guidance for primary settings](#)

[Guidance for transport sector](#)

[Guidance for boarding schools](#)

[Guidance for health professionals](#)

[Coronavirus action plan](#)

Public Information

[Public information materials](#)

[5 things you can do to protect yourself and your community](#)

[Campaign resource pages](#)

[Surrey County Council coronavirus page](#)

Health advice pages

[Symptoms of coronavirus](#)

[World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#)

[Government Action Plan](#)

[Common questions about coronavirus](#)

[How to prevent spreading infection](#)

The key new government measures are:

- Everyone should avoid gatherings and crowded places, such as pubs, clubs and theatres
- Everyone should work from home if they can
- All "unnecessary" visits to friends and relatives in care homes should cease
- People should only use the NHS "where we really need to" - and can reduce the burden on workers by getting advice on [the NHS website](#) where possible
- By next weekend, those with the most serious health conditions must be "largely shielded from social contact for around 12 weeks"
- The UK is now "three weeks" behind Italy - the worst-hit country in Europe
- If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days
- Those people should, if possible, avoid leaving the house "even to buy food or essentials" - but they may leave the house "for exercise and, in that case, at a safe distance from others"
- Schools will not be closed for the moment

Chief medical adviser Prof Chris Whitty said the group of people who should take "particular care to minimise their social contact" were:

- People over the age of 70
- Other adults who would normally be advised to have the flu vaccine (such as those with chronic diseases)
- Pregnant women

Stay at Home Guidance – Main messages

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started. (See [ending isolation](#) section below for more information)
- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period. (See [ending isolation](#) section below for more information)
- if you can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period
- if you cannot move vulnerable people out of your home, stay away from them as much as possible
- if you have coronavirus symptoms:
 - do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
 - you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home
 - testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home and consider what can be done for vulnerable people in the household
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
- if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

[The full guidance can be found here](#)

Role of Members and Councillors – public reassurance

Surrey County Council Members and Borough & District Councillors are well placed to be a calm and reassuring presence in our communities. Where possible Members should offer support and reassurance that every effort is being taken to prepare for the Coronavirus outbreak.

Members and Councillors are encouraged to use this document as a guide and to share the Public Health England website information included in this briefing document.

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

DFE has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows: Tel. 0800 046 8687. Email.

DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk. Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Mon-Fri)

NEW Public Information Campaign Launched

On Sunday 15th March the Secretary of State for Health, Matt Hancock [launched the next stage](#) of an expanded coronavirus (COVID-19) public information campaign.

The campaign will include TV adverts featuring CMO Professor Chris Whitty.

As soon as these materials are made available we will provide a link in this brief.

Media

There is a very high level of media interest locally, nationally and internationally.

All media queries should be directed to the council's communications team who will confer with Public Health England as needed. If you are contacted by the media please ask the journalist to contact the comms team and refer any queries you're sent directly to the Director of Communications & Engagement Andrea.Newman@surreycc.gov.uk or call 020 8541 7920 to speak to someone in the communications team (this number is also monitored out of office hours).

For up to date media statements please see the Council's [Surrey News pages](#).

Lines to take

If Members need to respond to queries via social media, the following lines can be used. **Please do not enter into further commentary without prior consultation with the council's communications team.**