



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Statement From NHS England And NHS Improvement On Coronavirus

The director of the NHS' response to the coronavirus outbreak has reminded people concerned about infection to call NHS 111 for advice.

The intervention from Professor Keith Willett follows inaccurate reports that the third patient in the UK to be confirmed as having the virus had gone to A&E for help.

The NHS has today confirmed that the third patient took the right approach in calling NHS 111 when they had concerns, and so got help quickly while avoiding any risk to other people.

Professor Keith Willett, NHS strategic incident director, said: "This patient did the right thing when they had concerns about coronavirus by calling NHS 111 for advice.

"After a telephone assessment, they were advised to make their way to Royal Sussex County Hospital Brighton for testing. Following a pre-arranged plan with the NHS they drove themselves to the hospital, were tested in isolation and away from public areas of the hospital, and returned home in isolation in their own car.

"Any travellers from China and the other specified countries who have a cough, fever, or shortness of breath are advised to follow the example of this patient and call NHS 111 for advice."

Ends

For further information please contact the NHS England and NHS Improvement media team on nhsengland.media@nhs.net or 01138 250958/9

- Media reports that the third UK patient to test positive for coronavirus in the UK walked into a crowded A&E are incorrect. They were tested in isolation with staff following clinical guidelines.
- There is no risk to those staff who attended to this patient or other staff at the trust as all appropriate protocols and procedures were followed.
- Patients can be reassured that their safety is a top priority, and are encouraged to attend all appointments as usual.
- The patient is receiving specialist NHS care, using tried and tested infection control procedures to prevent further spread of the virus.

- The NHS is putting in place measures to ensure the safety of all NHS staff, while maintaining healthcare provision for members of the public seeking advice and support in relation to coronavirus.
- The advice for the public remains that whether or not an individual is showing signs of the virus, they should keep themselves isolated at home and call 111 and not attend healthcare settings.
- The case definition for coronavirus has been updated. The new advice is:

Travellers from Wuhan and Hubei Province

If you have travelled from Wuhan or Hubei Province to the UK in the last 14 days you should immediately:

- stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu
- call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the area

Please follow this advice even if you do not have symptoms of the virus.

Travellers from other parts of China and other specified areas

This advice applies to travellers who have returned to the UK from the following areas:

- China
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

If you have returned to the UK from any of these areas in the last 14 days and develop symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, you should immediately:

- stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu
- call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the country
- The most up to date information on coronavirus, including travel information on countries affected, can be found [here](#).
- The UK is extremely well prepared for these types of outbreaks – we are one of the first countries in the world to develop a test for the new virus.
- Work is underway rapidly to identify any contacts the patient had, to prevent further spread.
- Coronavirus presents with flu-like symptoms including a fever, a cough, or difficulty breathing. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild.