

## CORONAVIRUS (Covid-19)

### – Latest information and Rolling Updates V3

**UK Level of Risk**

**MODERATE**

Although originating in China, Coronavirus (Covid-19) is presenting a significant possible risk to British retailers and manufacturers. The immediate impact is to Chinese supply chains but we recognise that, as responsible businesses we want to prepare for all eventualities. With that in mind we have created a rolling update to share the latest information to help you update and revise your resilience planning.

If Covid-19 cannot be controlled, it could affect about two-thirds of the world's population, according to a leading public health expert in Hong Kong. The World Health Organization recommends people take simple precautions to reduce exposure and transmission.

For more information see BPIF's Coronavirus - Questions and Answers document online.

#### **LATEST STATS – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

##### **Confirmed Cases identified across the UK Regions (via NHS – 5 March 09:00)**

	East	Ldn	Mids	NE	NW	SE	SW	Still to Confirm	Total
Confirmed	8	25	9	10	17	17	15	4	105
Deaths									

##### **The following information (provided by World Health Organisation – 5 March 23:00)**

<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	People Tested	18,083
	Confirmed Negative	17,968
	Confirmed Cases	119
	Confirmed Deaths	1

<b>EUROPE</b>	Confirmed Cases	5,569
	Confirmed Deaths	158

<b>GLOBAL</b>	Confirmed Cases	98,202
	Confirmed Deaths	3,381
	Recovered Cases	51,171
	Countries with cases	88

New Cases Identified;	4 March	Hungary, Gibraltar, Liechtenstein, Poland and Tunisia
	3 March	Argentina, Chile, Jordan and Ukraine
	2 March	Indonesia, Portugal, Andorra, Latvia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Senegal
	1 March	Ecuador, Azerbaijan, Czechia, Armenia and Dominican Rep.
	28 Feb	Belarus, Iceland, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Netherlands and Nigeria
	26 Feb	Pakistan, Brazil, Georgia, Greece, Macedonia, Norway and Romania
	25 Feb	France, Spain, Bahrain, Kuwait, Austria, Algeria, Croatia and Switzerland
	21 Feb	Iran, Israel and Lebanon
	31 Jan	Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Russia and Sweden
	30 Jan	Philippines and India
	26 Jan	Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Canada and Australia
	22 Jan	China, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, US and Macau

## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

### **Common signs of infection**

- Respiratory symptoms
- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath and breathing difficulties
- In more severe cases; Infection can cause pneumonia; Severe acute respiratory syndrome; Kidney failure; and death can occur

### **Recommendations and Health Tips**

- Germs can live on surfaces for hours – protect yourself in public areas, avoid touching public door handles, especially washrooms where it's possible people may not wash their hands
- Good housekeeping regime supports a clean and germ-free environment – step up on cleaning operation by ensure robust cleaning of door handles, light switches, kitchen counters/units, toilet essentials; remove dust as much as possible; advise gloves worn by cleaners preventing potential spread of ill health;
- Ensure you wash your hands with soap and water for minimum of 20 seconds post washroom visit; prior to eating; preparing food etc.
- Carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze, bin the tissue, kill germs by washing your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds
- Thoroughly cooking of meat, eggs etc.
- Avoid contact with anyone showing signs of coughing or sneezing
- If travelling abroad, check airlines before leaving for travel
- If you're looking to travel on business, think about alternative communication software such as Zoom; Skype; Conference calls etc. until the virus is on decline
- If you're in doubt and wish to cancel a holiday/event – check the travel company/airline prior to cancelling to ensure you remain insured
- If attending an event, check that it is still being held prior to heading out
- If you've arrived back from a country where the virus is known, follow the specific advice for returning travellers
- Be extra observant of employees with high temperatures; coughs etc.
- Ask Visitors to take extra precautions by cleaning hands, using sanitiser etc.

### **Additional steps for BRC Members and those in contact with food products**

- Ensure ALL PPE is cleaned daily, in good shape and worn at ALL times
- Employees MUST comply with BRC standards - extra care to clean and sanitise.
- Step up the hand-cleaning regime to before and after; working activities; lunch Breaks (eating and drinking refreshments, especially preparing foods); visits to the WC; any coughing or sneezing
- If beard nets are mandatory, request trimmed beards to ensure suitable fit to protect
- Review the work conducted on site and wear additional protective equipment if appropriate i.e. face mask to prevent ongoing contamination
- Ensure continual communication through all employees

## Useful Guides


- Latest Government Action Plan
  - o Weblink - [click here](#)
  - o Documented .pdf version – [click here](#)
- Home Isolation – [click here](#)
- People living in the same environment as those in Home Isolation – [click here](#)
- Investigation of Possible Cases – [click here](#)
- Primary Care – [click here](#)
- Management of Suspected Cases – [click here](#)
- Interim Guidance for First Responders – [click here](#)
- BPIF Guides – ‘Questions and Answers’ and Posters – [click here](#)

## ROLLING UPDATES

6/3	Latest News!
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UK announces the first death as a result of Coronavirus.</li> <li>- The numbers have risen within the last two days but government are still communicating the numbers as low and to maintain the sensible approach of hand-washing etc.</li> <li>- Chris Whitty – Chief Medical Officer announces plans to move into the second phase of the Coronavirus COVID-19 Plan – which focusses on the ‘delay’ of spread.</li> <li>- Italy has seen a large increase in death due to COVID-19 and the advice from the NHS for anyone returning from any region of Italy;</li> </ul> <p>Call 111 immediately on their return to the UK to seek advice following a questionnaire which they’ll undertake on the telephone. This will determine whether to self-isolate, return to work etc. etc.</p>
5/3	<p>BPIF have published the following which members may wish to adopt;  <b>Communications to employees and visitors – Coronavirus COVID-19</b></p>
	<p>In light of the continued Coronavirus situation please see the below guidance for employees and those attending company offices, if you could manage expectations of those visiting.</p> <p>The current approach is to follow official UK Government advice, reinforced with increased cleaning and hygiene processes - we ask all employees and visitors to offices respect the below guidance for returning travellers from abroad and follow best practice personal hygiene standards outlined below.</p>


	<p><b>Think before you attend company offices or a company event in line with the following;</b></p> <p><b><u>Category 1:</u></b> If you have been to one of the following places you should self-isolate and not attend a company office, meeting or event, even if you have no symptoms - <b>Wuhan City and Hubei Province, Iran, Daegu, Cheongdo (Republic of Korea) or any Italian town under containment measures.</b></p> <p>You should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call NHS 111</li> <li>• Not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital</li> <li>• In Scotland call your GP or NHS 24 on 111 out of hours</li> <li>• In Wales call 111 (if available in your area) or 0845 46 47</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Category 2:</u></b> If you have returned from one of the following countries in the last 14 days and you do have symptoms (even mild symptoms), you should not attend company office, meeting or event - <b>Cambodia, China (except those areas mentioned above), Northern Italy (north of Pisa, outside of those towns under containment measures), Thailand, Japan, Laos, Macau, Myanmar, Singapore, Vietnam, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia</b></p> <p>You should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do next or call NHS 111</li> <li>• Not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital</li> <li>• In Scotland call your GP or NHS 24 on 111 out of hours</li> <li>• In Wales call 111 (if available in your area) or 0845 46 47</li> </ul> <p>If you require any further advice or support please contact your manager or host immediately.</p> <hr/> <p><b><u>If you are in one of our offices and feel unwell:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you become unwell in the office and have travelled to one of the affected countries above, you should try to move to an isolated area which is at least 2 metres away from other people (e.g. an available meeting room)</li> <li>• Please make the relevant event organiser or member of staff aware</li> <li>• You should call NHS 111 from your mobile and explain which country you have returned from in the last 14 days and outline your current symptoms</li> <li>• Try and remain at least 2 metres from other people, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and avoid touching people, surfaces and objects</li> <li>• If you need to go to the bathroom while waiting for medical assistance, please alert your event co-ordinator which bathroom has been used</li> </ul> <p>If you require any further advice or support please contact your Manager or Host immediately.</p>
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	<p><b><u>Health and Safety – Visitors attending site</u></b></p> <p>Visitors are encouraged to wash their hands or use hand-sanitiser on arrival at any of our company offices especially after using public transport and after coughing and sneezing.</p> <p>Public Health England recommends that the following general cold and flu precautions are taken to help prevent people from catching and spreading COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze - see <a href="#">Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.</a></li> <li>• Put used tissues in the bin straight away</li> <li>• Wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available. See <a href="#">hand washing guidance.</a></li> <li>• Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces</li> <li>• Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean</li> </ul> <p>We will communicate any changes to our policy in the event official Government advice and guidance changes, as it happens.</p> <p>If you require any further advice or support please contact your host immediately.</p>
5/3	Message from UK Government
	<p>The Government are stating that it's business as usual with the public supporting the UK's response by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following public health authorities' advice, for example on hand washing</li> <li>• Reducing the impact and spread of misinformation by relying on information from trusted sources, such as that on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a></li> <li>○ <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a></li> <li>○ <a href="http://www.publichealth.hscni.net">www.publichealth.hscni.net</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Checking and following the latest Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office (FCO) travel advice when travelling and planning to travel <a href="#">Click here</a></li> <li>• Ensuring you and your family's vaccinations are up to date – especially the vulnerable</li> <li>• Using NHS 111 (NHS Direct Wales)</li> <li>• Go to the hospital only when you really need to</li> <li>• Being understanding of the pressures the health and social care systems may be under</li> <li>• Be receptive to changes that may be needed to the provision of care to you and your family.</li> <li>• Accepting that the advice for managing COVID-19 for most people will be self-isolation at home and simple over-the-counter medicines</li> </ul>
4/3	<p>Government publish latest Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'A guide of what you can expect across the UK'</li> </ul>

	<p>This document sets out what the UK as a whole has done – and plans to do – to tackle the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, based on our experience dealing with other infectious diseases and our influenza pandemic preparedness work.</p> <p>The document sets out their ongoing plans to;</p> <p><b>Contain the Virus</b> - plans and procedures to detect and isolate the first cases of COVID-19 as they emerge in the UK.</p> <p><b>Delay</b> - the onset of an epidemic if it becomes inevitable, this includes case finding and isolation of early cases</p> <p><b>Research</b> – ongoing liaison with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) including the Medical Research Council (MRC) and others to support and co-ordinate research during the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The role the public can play in supporting this response, now and in the future</p> <p>Weblink – <a href="#">Click here</a> Download in .pdf – <a href="#">Click here</a></p>																																																						
4/3	<p>The vast majority of infections are being reported in mainland China but cases have now been confirmed in 86 countries, including 89 cases in the UK</p>																																																						
	 <table border="1"> <caption>Confirmed COVID-19 cases by country (from map)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Country</th> <th>Cases</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Iceland</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Finland</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Sweden</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr><td>Norway</td><td>56</td></tr> <tr><td>Russia</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Ireland</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>UK</td><td>85</td></tr> <tr><td>Belgium</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>France</td><td>285</td></tr> <tr><td>Spain</td><td>222</td></tr> <tr><td>Italy</td><td>3,000+</td></tr> <tr><td>Croatia</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Romania</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Georgia</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Macedonia</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Greece</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Morocco</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Algeria</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Egypt</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Israel</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>Lebanon</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Iraq</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr><td>Kuwait</td><td>56</td></tr> <tr><td>Bahrain</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>Iran</td><td>2,900+</td></tr> <tr><td>UAE</td><td>27</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Country	Cases	Iceland	26	Finland	6	Sweden	35	Norway	56	Russia	3	Ireland	6	UK	85	Belgium	23	France	285	Spain	222	Italy	3,000+	Croatia	10	Romania	4	Georgia	3	Macedonia	1	Greece	9	Morocco	1	Algeria	12	Egypt	2	Israel	15	Lebanon	13	Iraq	35	Kuwait	56	Bahrain	52	Iran	2,900+	UAE	27
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26/2	Latest News!
	<p>The number of confirmed cases has risen rapidly since the respiratory virus emerged in December from its suspected source in a Wuhan wildlife market.</p> <p>Coronavirus is now spreading faster outside of China rather than in China. If Covid-19 cannot be controlled, it could affect about two-thirds of the world's population, according to a leading public health expert in Hong Kong.</p>
26/2	UK Health Secretary's Statement on Coronavirus
	<p>Polics taken down details of a statement made in the House of Commons by Matt Hancock, the Health Secretary, but in summary;</p> <p>Hancock says there have been 13 cases of the virus in the UK. Eight of those people have been discharged, he says. But the government expects more cases to arise, he says 'the government has a four-point strategy for dealing with this: contain, delay, research and mitigate'</p> <p>He says the government will be rolling out a publicity campaign soon. Advice for travellers coming back to the UK from Northern Italy and some other countries was published on Tuesday. He says the government is coordinating with its international partners to ensure it it ready for all eventualities.</p> <p>There are plans in place in case of the virus becoming a pandemic, he says. But he says the Government is still working on the basis of plans to contain the virus.</p> <p>He says people should only travel to the quarantined areas in Italy if their travel is essential.</p> <p>He says it is important that the government is not advising the blanket closure of schools.</p> <p>Testing sites are available at all A&amp;E facilities in England, he says. But he says the NHS also wants to introduce home testing for the virus. That will allow the government to roll out testing for a much wider group of people, he says.</p>



27/2	<b>Monitoring of Sports and Entertainment Events</b>
	<p>The monitoring of sports and entertainment events has led to;</p> <p>Sports -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ireland Vs Italy Six National Games postponed</li> <li>- Nanjing World Athletics Indoor Championships due to take place in March has been postponed to 2021</li> <li>- Euro 2020 – UEFA currently in discussion and monitoring the situation before making any decisions</li> <li>- International Olympic Committee – ongoing monitoring for the Olympic Games in Japan for July 2020</li> </ul> <p>Music and Entertainment –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stormzy postponed scheduled Asian tour - Japan, China and Korea between March 27-29 2020</li> <li>- Khalid postponed scheduled Asian tour – Bangkok, Singapore, Jakarta, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo, Seoul, Mumbai and Bangalore between March 24 – April 14 2020</li> <li>- Mabel cancelled concert in Milan on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2020</li> </ul> <p>To keep abreast of all concert dates – check out <a href="#">CoronaVirus - Concerts Update</a></p>
26/2	<b>Cancellation of some flights to Milan</b>
	<p>British Airways cancelled dozens of flights serving Milan due to a drop in demand amid the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>The airline announced it was “merging” some of its flights between Heathrow and the Italian city’s Linate airport. About 22 return flights over the next two weeks are affected. BA flights to and from Milan Malpensa are continuing as normal.</p>
25/2	<b>Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Asia</b>
	
25/2	<b>China Joint Mission shares findings and recommendations</b>

	<p>A team of 25 international and Chinese experts travelled to several different provinces of China, with a small group going to Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak.</p> <p>Among the team's findings was that the epidemic peaked and plateaued between the 23rd of January and the 2nd of February, and has been declining steadily since then. The team also estimates that the measures taken in China have averted a significant number of cases.</p>
24/2	Experts team travel to Italy
	<p>A team of experts from WHO and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) focus on: understanding how events developed, learning from the Italian experience and supporting control and prevention efforts by the authorities.</p> <p>To limit further human to human transmission, WHO experts will provide support in the areas of clinical management, infection prevention and control, surveillance and risk communication.</p>
24/2	UN Secretary-General visits WHO
	<p>UN Secretary-General António Guterres met with the WHO Director-General and other WHO leaders, receiving a briefing on COVID-19, Ebola and polio. He expressed great admiration for health workers, including in China, who are working tirelessly to save lives. The UN Secretary-General also stressed that there is no space for stigma and discrimination and said we must be guided by science and human rights-based interventions.</p>
18/2	Engagement in massive preparedness activities
	<p>Shipping of supplies of personal protective equipment to 21 countries - 40 countries in Africa and 29 in the Americas have the ability to detect COVID-19.</p>
12/2	Research and innovation forum sets priorities for COVID-19 research
	<p>More than 400 experts and funders met at WHO's Geneva HQ to accelerate research to stop the COVID-19 outbreak. Featuring updates from the frontlines of the response in China, the meeting addressed issues such as: developing easy-to-apply diagnostics, accelerating existing vaccine candidates and preventing infection.</p>
30/1	Public Health Emergency of International Concern declared
	<p>WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared the 2019-nCoV outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, following a second meeting of the Emergency Committee convened under the International Health Regulations.</p> <p>Acknowledging that cases have been reported in five regions in one month, the Committee noted that early detection, isolating and treating cases, contact tracing and social distancing measures – in line with the level of risk – can all work to interrupt virus spread.</p>

25/1	Launch of free online introductory course on the novel coronavirus
	Covering topics such as why the novel coronavirus is a global threat to human health and how to effectively engage communities in the response, this free online course gives an introduction to the novel coronavirus. It is available for free and online in English, French, Spanish and Chinese. Here's the link <a href="https://openwho.org/">https://openwho.org/</a>
23/1	First meeting of Emergency Committee regarding the novel coronavirus outbreak
	On 22-23 February, the WHO Director General convened the Emergency Committee to consider the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China, with cases also reported in the Republic of Korea, Japan, Thailand and Singapore.  Several Committee members considered it still too early to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), given its restrictive and binary nature. Among other recommendations, the Committee advised that it be recalled in 10 days.
21/1	WHO makes field visit to Wuhan, China
13/1	First case of Novel Coronavirus outside of China confirmed
12/1	China makes genome sequencing of Novel Coronavirus publicly available
10/1	Developed with reference to other coronaviruses, such as SARS and MERS, WHO issued a tool for countries to check their ability to detect and respond to a novel coronavirus.
5/1	First Advice – publish of risk assessment and advice, reported on the status of patients and the public health response by national authorities to the cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan.

**For further information contact the  
BPIF Health & Safety Team**

**STOP ● THINK II ACT ►  
YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY**

**Disclaimer –**

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