

## **Coronavirus – latest advice from Somerset County Council – 27 February 2020**

There are no positive COVID-19 cases in the South West, but our local health and care services are well prepared with well-rehearsed plans in place to deal with any potential outbreaks.

We would like to reassure people that, should a case be confirmed anywhere in the country, Public Health England would contact all those who have come into close contact with them and give specific advice of what action to take.

Government advice is reviewed daily and updated regularly. For the latest information, advice and guidance, check out <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>.

The most recent advice (25 February) states that if you have travelled to the UK from mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the last 14 days **and** are experiencing cough, fever or shortness of breath, to stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild.

If you have returned from these specific areas since February 19, you should call NHS 111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you **do not** have symptoms:

- Iran
- Specific [lockdown areas](#) in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy
- Special [care zones](#) in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days)

If you have returned from the **following** areas since February 19 **and** develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111. You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms.

- Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini),
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

### **How can you stop the virus spreading?**

As for preventing the spread of any germs, the following guidance is recommended:

- Wash your hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitiser, before cooking/preparing food and eating, in arrival at childcare or educational sites, after sporting activity, after using the toilet and before leaving home
- If you sneeze, catch it with a tissue, bin it and kill the germs by washing your hands
- Try not to touch your nose, eyes or mouth with unwashed hands
- Don't share cups or bottles for drinking

### **Get more Information**

The World Health Organisation have information and guidance:

**Protect yourself:** <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

**Travel Advice:** <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

**Questions and Answers:** <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/travel-advice>