

Briefing Note No.2 For Providers of Adult Social Care

Introduction

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide relevant information to Adult Social Care Providers on novel coronavirus (COVID-19), including the current situation in the UK, guidance for social or community care and residential settings, and updated information about specified countries and areas with implications for returning travellers or visitors arriving in the UK.

Current Situation

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

The UK risk level has increased from low to moderate; this permits the government to plan for all eventualities.

The risk to individuals in the UK is low. Currently there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 in the UK. There is no need to do anything differently in any care setting at present.

KCC Adult Social Care and Health Directorate is currently operating business as usual.

Some health and care services are experiencing seasonal pressures. It is therefore important to continue with existing established procedures which are designed to manage the demand on our services during periods of escalation.

Where can you find the latest information as the situation develops?

Providers can keep up to date as the situation develops through daily updates from Public Health England (PHE) via this website: www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public

The latest information and advice includes details of;

- Situation in the UK
- Information about the virus
- Advice for travellers
- Summary of actions taken in the UK to protect people
- Diagnosis and analysis
- Further information

A national communications plan has been launched by the government giving practical advice to anyone who presents with symptoms i.e. telephone NHS 111 for advice.

The PHE regional office for Kent will not provide any public communication in addition to the national guidance available.

This is an evolving situation and the advice has changed based on emerging information about the number of cases and spread of the infection from person to person.

Guidance for social or community care and residential settings

On 25th February 2020, the Department for Health and Social Care published specific guidance for social or community care and residential settings, via this website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-social-or-community-care-and-residential-settings-on-covid-19

The guidance will assist social, community and residential care employers in providing advice to their staff on:

- the novel coronavirus, COVID-19
- how to help prevent spread of all respiratory infections including COVID-19
- what to do if someone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 has been in a health or social care setting
- what advice to give to individuals who have travelled to specific areas
- risk assessments for undertaking domiciliary visits or providing care in residential settings
- actions to take if staff come into contact with someone who is self-isolating or is a possible or confirmed case of COVID-19

Specified countries and areas with implications for returning travellers or visitors arriving in the UK

On 25th February 202, the UK Government published a list of specified countries and areas with advice for travellers or visitors arriving in the UK, via this website. www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas

Travellers from Category 1 areas should self-isolate, even if asymptomatic, and call NHS 111:

Category 1

- Wuhan city and Hubei Province (China)
- Iran
- Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea)
- Any Italian town under containment measures

Travellers from Category 2 do not need to undertake any special measures, but if they develop symptoms they should self-isolate and call NHS 111.

Category 2

- Cambodia
- China*
- Hong Kong
- Italy: north*
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Republic of Korea*
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

*Except areas of the country specifically referred to in Category 1.