

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19):

Local stakeholder information - Wiltshire

Latest advice for communities

As you may have seen, yesterday (12 March 2020) the Chief Medical Officer provided new advice around self-isolation and Public Health England have updated their web pages so please review the updated information online:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The advice is that you should self-isolate at home for seven days if you have a recent onset of:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- High temperature

This will help to protect others in the community while people are infectious. Anyone displaying symptoms should not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. However, when self-isolating with mild symptoms people do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them they are staying at home and Public Health England will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms.

Based on current evidence, Coronavirus COVID-19 presents with flu-like symptoms including a fever, a cough, or difficulty breathing. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild.

There is a lot going on nationally to ensure we are prepared to manage this risk and locally, we have tried and tested plans in place which means we are prepared to deal with a whole range of issues.

There remains only four confirmed cases of Coronavirus in the Wiltshire Council area. Whilst cases in Wiltshire will undoubtedly increase people's anxiety, it's important to remain calm but vigilant and take necessary steps.

The best action we can all take is to ensure we continue to have good personal and hand hygiene, which includes:

- Giving your hands a good wash with soap and water is the most effective action you can take (but hand gels can be a good substitute).
- Maintaining personal hygiene when coughing or sneezing is also important – use a tissue rather your hands and then throw it away.
- It is good general practice to use cleaning wipes to give your keyboard, desk, phone etc. the once over on a regular basis.

If people have trips planned, they should follow the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice.

To stay up to date with the national situation and response and any advice PHE is giving you can visit their [website](#). Alternatively, you can follow the Department for Health and Social Care on Twitter- @DHSCgovuk

We have also produced a community toolkit to support you and your community which contains useful information and links to key resources. This can be downloaded from our website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-coronavirus>

I will keep you up to date with local developments.

Tracy Daszkiewicz

Director of Public Health

Wiltshire Council



Public Health
England