



Press Statement

9 March 2020

Joint statement on confirmed COVID-19 case in Herefordshire

Sue Ibbotson, Centre Director, Public Health England West Midlands, said:

"Public Health England is contacting people who had close contact with one of the latest confirmed cases of COVID-19 who is a resident of Herefordshire.

"Close contacts will be given health advice about symptoms and emergency contact details to use if they become unwell in the 14 days after contact with the confirmed case. This tried and tested method will ensure we are able to minimise any risk to them and the wider public."

Karen Wright, Director of Public Health for Herefordshire Council, said:

"I'd like to reassure people that the risk to the general public remains low and the local authority is working with health colleagues to do everything we can to stop the virus spreading and ensure the people of Herefordshire are protected.

"Good hygiene is the best prevention and there are some simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by washing your hands regularly and thoroughly and if you cough, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.

"If you have recently been to one of the [affected areas](#) and are feeling unwell, you should use the [NHS 111 online coronavirus service](#) or call NHS 111 for further advice straight away – please don't go to your doctor or a hospital. There's lots of advice on how people can protect themselves online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- Herefordshire Council, PHE and the NHS are well prepared to deal with coronavirus. Our priority is to safeguard local communities which sometimes involves taking preventative measures to help reduce the risk of further cases.
- To date (8 March), 23,513 people have been tested with 273 positive cases. We advise people to follow the advice being issued by PHE, NHS and local authorities.
- We cannot comment further on individual cases due to patient confidentiality.
- Details on testing are published daily at 2pm and includes a breakdown of negative and positive tests <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

- For more information and advice on coronavirus (COVID-19)

PHE <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>