

**From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride**

HSS(MD)7/2020



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

FOR ACTION

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/Health and Social
Care Board/HSC Trusts/ NIAS
GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Care Board
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (for onward
distribution to practice staff)
OOHs Medical Managers (for onward distribution to staff)

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3SQ

Tel: 028 9052 0563
Email: michael.mcbride@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)7/2020
Date: 7 February 2020

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague

UPDATED ADVICE IN RELATION TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

Action Required

Chief Executives must ensure that this information is drawn to the attention of all clinical staff to enable them to respond accordingly

The HSCB must ensure that this information is cascaded to all General Practitioners and OOH facilities immediately.

1. This letter updates the advice sent on 31 January 2020, (See attached letter <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hss-md-05-2020.pdf>)
2. Based on the scientific advice of [SAGE](#) the UK Chief Medical Officers are advising anyone who has 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 is experiencing cough or fever or shortness of breath, to stay indoors and call the dedicated coronavirus helpline in Northern Ireland on 0300 200 7885, even if symptoms are mild. This service is available 24 hours day.

3. These areas have been identified because of the volume of air travel from affected areas, understanding of other travel routes and number of reported cases.
4. This list will be kept under review. Clinicians should check the following website to see the most up-to-date information on the situation:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>
5. As of 6 February, a total of 566 UK tests have concluded, of which 563 were confirmed negative and 3 positive.

Advice for Travellers

6. Residents of Northern Ireland travelling or living overseas following the outbreak of novel coronavirus should check the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice](#).
7. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has advised UK nationals to leave China where possible. If the situation continues to escalate the pressure on the Chinese health system may intensify, and it may also become harder for people to travel.
8. This change does not affect our advice for those returning from Wuhan or mainland China.

Travellers from Wuhan and Hubei Province

9. For anyone who has travelled from Wuhan or Hubei Province to the UK in the last 14 days they are recommended to immediately:
 - stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as they would with the flu
 - call 0300 200 7885, to inform them of their recent travel to the area

It is recommended that they follow this advice even if they do not have symptoms of the virus.

10. For health professionals, please refer to the attached primary and secondary care flow charts as required as well as the Trusts' single points of contact details. For health protection related queries, the health protection team at the Public Health

Agency can be contacted via the Duty Room, on 0300 555 0119, or out-of-hours via ambulance control on 028 90404045.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer
Circulation List

Director of Public Health/Medical Director, Public Health Agency (*for onward distribution to all relevant health protection staff*)

Assistant Director Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency

Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency

Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Health and Social Care Board (*for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies*)

Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts

Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB

Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health and Social Care Board (*for cascade to GP Out of Hours services*)

Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Consultants, Occupational Health Physicians and School Medical Leads*)

Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community Nurses, and Midwives*)

Directors of Children's Services, HSC Trusts

RQIA (*for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals*)

Medicines Management Pharmacists, HSC Board (*for cascade to prescribing advisers*)

Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust

Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust

Professor Donna Fitzsimons, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB

Professor Sonja McIlpatrick, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster

Caroline Lee, CEC

Donna Gallagher, Open University

Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, UU

Professor Carmel Hughes, Head of School, School of Pharmacy, QUB

Professor Colin Adair, Director of the NI Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development, QUB

Joe Brogan, Assistant Director of Integrated Care, HSCB

This letter is available on the Department of Health website at

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>