

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	26 February 2020
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Coronavirus – current position
REPORT NUMBER	GOV/20/064
DIRECTOR	Angela Scott – Chief Executive
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell – Chief Officer Governance
REPORT AUTHOR	Dawn Schultz, Emergency Planning Lead
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.1, 2.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide members with assurance that Aberdeen City Council, along with relevant external partner organisations are monitoring the situation and have established plans in place to support the response should people become unwell.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee: -

- 2.1 note the content of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 “The World Health Organisation has declared a public health emergency of international concern, and in response, the four UK Chief Medical Officers changed the UK risk level from low to moderate.
- 3.2 This does not mean that the risk to individuals has increased, and it does not mean that any additional precautions are necessary. The increase to moderate reflects the need for governments and the health service to escalate planning and preparation in case of a more widespread outbreak.

- 3.3 To support the health and social care sector across Scotland a toolkit of communication assets has been developed. See link to NHSinform in background papers for more information”.

Key Messages

- 3.4 Based on the current position regarding the coronavirus, the key messages for the general public are:
- 3.4.1 If you have travelled to the UK from mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the previous 14 days and are experiencing cough or fever or shortness of breath, you should to stay indoors, call your GP or if your surgery is closed ring NHS 24 (111) informing them of your symptoms and your recent travel. Do not leave home until you have been given advice by a clinician.
- 3.4.2. This is peak season for respiratory and flu-like illness. There will be cases presenting with symptoms of cough, fever and shortness of breath, but these are highly unlikely to be novel coronavirus.
- 3.4.3. The public can be assured that Scotland is always well prepared for these types of outbreak and will remain vigilant. We have a proven track record of dealing with challenging health issues and have established public health and infectious disease experts working round the clock.
- 3.4.4. To protect yourself and others, it is best to:
- o Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
 - o Bin the tissue.
 - o To kill germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.
- 3.5 The Scottish Government resilience operation has been activated - Ministers and officials are working with partners including Health Protection Scotland, administrations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and UK Chief Medical Officers to monitor the situation closely and ensure NHS services have the support they need.
- 3.6 At the Local Resilience Partnership Working Group on 28 January 2020, NHS Grampian colleagues confirmed that information prepared at a national level should continue be shared by partner agencies with the wider public.
- 3.7 Aberdeen City Council through Emergency Planning and Environmental Health have been in regular dialogue with colleagues in NHS Grampian and Public Health Scotland to monitor the situation in case of any action required.
- 3.8 Aberdeen City Council has shared the communications toolkit with colleagues in internal and external communications who have shared on the intranet for staff of ACC, and on the ACC website for warning and informing. ACC are also sharing information with partner organisations, ACC service clusters and the Integrated Joint Board as this is an opportunity to reinforce the key messages relating to good hygiene practices.

- 3.9 In relation to Port Health, Environmental Health colleagues have been advised by the NHS Grampian Public Health team that Health Protection Scotland have sent the relevant information to the ports. NHS Grampian are content that Aberdeen's Airport and seaport plans are sufficient to deal with the issue of cases arriving via these routes. Health Protection Scotland will be hosting a conference call on 20 February 2020 on port health issues.
- 3.10 Colleagues in Business Continuity have advised services to review their existing continuity plans to reflect any updates to staffing/staff absence, systems and procedures in line with the information received to ensure plans continue to be accurate and robust should they require to be activated.
- 3.11 Colleagues in Early intervention and Community Engagement have been made aware of potential requests for accommodation in relation to self-isolation and have been asked to consider this in relation to existing service plans.
- 3.11 Aberdeen City Council will continue to be guided by colleagues in NHS Grampian at a local level who in turn are informed by the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland. The NHS practise and prepare responses to disease outbreaks and follow tried and tested procedures, following the highest safety standards possible for the protection of NHS staff, patients and the public.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	Risk that during response to incidents there are not adequate controls over associated spend.	L	Good governance of the relevant business continuity plans manages the risks associated with incidents to ensure that controls and assurances are in place to manage finances properly.
Legal	Risk that the Council is not compliant with its responsibilities under the Civil	L	Business continuity planning will help to facilitate compliance with legal responsibilities.

	Contingencies Act as a Category 1 responder.		
Employee	Risk to responding staff that they are not Trained/equipped to support a response.	L	Training and development for all staff will form part of a strategic response.
Customer	Risk to delivery of Council's critical functions if a strategic multi agency response is required.	M	Ongoing planning through ACC and LRP is designed to ensure that a response structure is in place to ensure delivery of critical functions.
Environment	Impacts of climate change to be considered for each incident.	L	ACC manages any risk through implementation of its emergency response structure.
Technology	Ability to access/operate due to isolation of premises.	L	Existing business continuity plans manage the risk through implementation of an emergency response structure.
Reputational	If any of the risks identified are realised there will be an impact on the Council's reputation.	M	ACC's ongoing resilience planning supports partnership arrangements which work to manage the reputational impact of an emergency.

7. OUTCOMES

- 7.1 The emergency response structure and partnership arrangements are aligned to each of the themes within Local Outcome Improvement Plan, ensuring that the Council is equipped to protect the economy, people and place in responding to incidents and emergencies.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Public information on coronavirus - www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

NIL

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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