

## **Coronavirus briefing for Cambridgeshire County Councillors 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

Developments regarding Coronavirus are closely monitored nationally by Public Health England and the Chief Medical Officer. Dr Liz Robin, Director of Public Health across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is involved in local multi-agency planning for Coronavirus, working with Council's management team and the wider public sector.

### **SUMMARY:**

- The [National Coronavirus Action Plan](#) has been published today, and provides a framework for local planning and preparedness.
- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS is implementing national NHS requirements.
- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum, a group of local public sector partners involved in planning for risks and emergencies, is setting up a Strategic Co-ordination Group, co-chaired by the Director of Public Health. This will ensure we are jointly planning ahead and working together, to deliver against the requirements of the National Coronavirus Action Plan.
- Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council officers are setting up a cross-council Coronavirus task group, to make sure that the Council's services are fully prepared.
- **The key messages for the public to prevent spread of Coronavirus are:**
  - **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze**
  - **Put used tissues in the bin immediately**
  - **Wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available**
  - **Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell**
  - **Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean**

## **Further guidance, advice and information**

### **1.0 National Coronavirus Action Plan**

You can view the National Coronavirus Action Plan here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

### **2.0 Daily updates:**

The latest information on the numbers of Coronavirus cases diagnosed in England (updated daily) is available on

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

### **3.0 Information and advice for the public:**

Information and advice for the public, together with frequently asked questions, is available on the NHS website [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

This includes travel advice and advice for residents who have recently returned from countries with Coronavirus cases.

There is a national 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' campaign which provides information on the best way to prevent the spread of germs and viruses including the Coronavirus:

- **cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze**
- **put used tissues in the bin immediately**
- **wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available**
- **try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell**
- **do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean**

### **4.0 Guidance for Council services**

International research and information gathering on Coronavirus is used by Public Health England to develop guidance for the NHS, other public services, and employers generally. The guidance most relevant to Council services is available on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-guidance-for-non-clinical-settings-and-the-public>

This includes specific Coronavirus guidance documents for:

- Educational settings

- Social or community care and residential settings
- Employers and businesses
- Staff in the transport sector
- Decontamination in non-healthcare settings

The Council's communications team makes sure that managers and staff receive regular updates and are made aware of this guidance through the staff intranet

Guidance for health professionals, used by local NHS colleagues is available on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

## **5.0 Planning within the Council**

The Council's emergency management team are setting up a cross-council Coronavirus task group within the Council, advised by public health colleagues, to ensure that we are well prepared as an organisation. Tasks include ensuring that all services have up to date business continuity plans, and are prepared for an increase in Coronavirus activity.

## **6.0 The Local Resilience Forum**

The Council participates in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (LRF) which brings together senior leaders from public sector organisations including local authority, NHS, police, and fire service representatives, to plan strategically for key risks in the local area.

The LRF is setting up a Coronavirus strategic group, which will meet regularly, to ensure that organisations are working together to plan for and mitigate risks associated with Coronavirus and to deliver the National Coronavirus Action Plan. This will be co-chaired by the Director of Public Health.