



## **QEII policy on Covid-19 (coronavirus) – as at 27th February 2020**

You will be aware that, based on the World Health Organization's declaration that this is a public health emergency of international concern, the UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the public from low to moderate. This permits the government to plan for all eventualities. The risk to individuals remains low.

The QEII Centre take the health and safety of their clients, staff and partners very seriously. We are following the regular advice from the UK Government and Public Health England and will update our policy and act accordingly as advice changes.

The QEII Centre remains fully open and all events are taking place as normal.

The transmission of Covid-19 is not yet fully understood however it is thought that it can be transmitted from human to human through close contact and that transmission is via large respiratory droplets and by direct and indirect contact with respiratory secretions.

Three main symptoms have been reported by China and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to date:

- Fever, Cough or chest tightness, Shortness of breath

### **Precautions**

In conjunction with our partners, we are taking certain precautions to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus.

- Public areas

Sanitising stations with dispensers are being made available in reception and cloakroom areas plus all lift lobbies.

Catch it, bin it, kill it posters have been put up all around the building including in all lavatories, public and back of house areas. These posters emphasise the importance of individuals washing their hands regularly.

- Cleaning schedule

The QEII Centre already has a robust cleaning schedule in place however an enhanced schedule is being put in place to regularly disinfect high volume touch points such as door handles, push plates, stair rails, lift call buttons and chair handles.

- Potentially infected individuals

Should anyone attending the QEII Centre, either in the capacity of staff or delegate, start to exhibit any signs of infection by the coronavirus, they will be given a protective face mask and surgical gloves to wear and directed to a designated isolation room within the venue. Immediate advice would then be sought from the emergency services. A record of the patient plus any staff or delegates having contact with the patient will be kept and it will be available outside of the room where staff can see it and complete it.

- Quarantine period

In line with our partners, QEII Centre has introduced a 16 day quarantine period for any colleague who has travelled to China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Northern Italy (north of Pisa), South Korea, Japan and Iran.

- Compass Group response

QEII Taste who deliver the catering at QEII Centre are part of the Compass Group.

As a precaution Compass have introduced a 16 day quarantine period, should any colleague ( or family members and persons living in the same household) have returned from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Northern Italy (north of Pisa), South Korea, Japan and Iran. These individuals must remain at home regardless of whether they have shown any flu like symptoms or not and follow PHE advice before returning to work. This requirement also applies to agency staff.

Compass Group UK & Ireland has a robust policy for Pandemics which can be found on the HSE website. Like QEII, they are closely monitoring guidance provided by Public Health England and we will keep you informed of any action to take should it be required.

Action: If a colleague has travelled to any of the countries listed above in the last 16 days – they must follow a 16 day quarantine period and not come to work (see above)

In the meantime, as a precaution we encourage everyone to keep following our hygiene practices:

- Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub;
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with a tissue;
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms;
- Avoid unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals; and
- Thoroughly cook meat and eggs

**TIER update - Situation update correct as of 16.00 26 February 2020**

#### **UK picture**

- As of 09:00 26 February, a total of 7,132 people have been tested in the UK, 7,119 have been confirmed negative. Four further patients have tested positive bringing the total to 13. The

virus was passed on in the Diamond Princess cruise ship and the patients have been transferred to specialist NHS infection centres.

- Globally as of 26 February at 10.00am there are 81,050 cases of which 78,064 are in China, 1,146 are in the Republic of Korea and 322 are in Italy. The fatalities to date are 2,768 (of which the following are outside China: Hong Kong SAR (2), Iran (15), Cases on Diamond Princess Cruise ship (4), Italy (10), Japan (1), Taiwan (1), France (1), Philippines (1) Republic of Korea (11)).
- [British Airways](#) is continuing to operate to and from Italy and they are continuing to monitor the situation closely. They have introduced flexible rebooking options for customers booked to travel to/from to travel between London and the Northern Italian destinations including, Milan (Linate and Malpensa), Turin, Bologna, Venice, Bergamo and Verona up to 2 March 2020. Customers can rebook to a later travel date up to 31 March 2020.
- [easyJet](#) and [Ryanair](#) flights are still operating as normal.

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice for outbound travel

- The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) is still advising against all travel to Hubei Province, and against all but essential travel to the rest of mainland China
- The FCO is also advising against all but essential travel to:
  - the cities of Daegu and Cheongdo in [South Korea](#)
  - ten small towns in the Lombardy region and one in the Veneto region of [Italy](#)
- **The FCO is not advising against travel to any other country/territory as a result of coronavirus risks.**

### Other travel measures, advice and updates:

- The [World Health Organisation and UNWTO have issued a joint statement](#) on tourism and COVID-19 calling for coordination. The key take outs are:
  - Tourism's response needs to be measured and consistent, proportionate to the public health threat and based on local risk assessment, involving every part of the tourism value chain – public bodies, private companies and tourists, in line with WHO's overall guidance and recommendations.
  - UNWTO and WHO stand ready to work closely with all those communities and countries affected by the current health emergency, to build for a better and more resilient future. Travel restrictions going beyond these may cause unnecessary interference with international traffic, including negative repercussions on the tourism sector.

### ITB updates

- [On 26 February the organisers of ITB Berlin announced](#) that on the advice of German public health authorities all exhibitors at **ITB Berlin** will be required to fill out a declaration form. The declaration form is a condition for access to the exhibition grounds and serves to identify persons belonging to a COVID 19 risk group.
- *They have also said "This is a precautionary measure in order to protect those participating in ITB Berlin and the public in general. The Federal Ministry of Health and the Robert Koch Institute have assessed that the health risk in Germany remains low. "*

### Practical advice and guidance

- The [World Health Organisation has issued advice to the public](#) 'If you are not in an area where COVID-19 is spreading, or if you have not travelled from one of those areas or have not been in close contact with someone who has and is feeling unwell, your chances of getting it are currently low.'

