



City of Westminster



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Westminster Health & Wellbeing Board

RBKC Health & Wellbeing Board

Date:	Tuesday 17 March
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Coronavirus (COVID-19) update
Report of:	Houda Al-Sharifi, Interim Director of Public Health
Wards Involved:	All
Financial Summary:	N/A
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1. Executive Summary

- This paper is for information only and will be supplemented by a contemporaneous verbal update by Public Health, Adult Social Care and NWL CCG to the Board, updating the Board on the rapidly evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and preparedness steps for contribution to assurance in Westminster, and Kensington and Chelsea.
- A verbal update will provide the primary source of information for the Board as:
 - The global situation regarding the spread of COVID-19 is evolving
 - The guidance from PHE / DHSC / DfE is being updated daily
 - Local Authority and partner preparedness activities are urgent, substantial and ongoing in response to the unfolding situation

2. Key Matters for the Board

- The Board is asked to note the update on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

3. Background

- Coronaviruses are common across the world. Typical symptoms include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.
- Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, China at the end of 2019.
- The virus was declared a Global Health Emergency by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 31st January 2020.
- Epidemiological evidence on this new virus is still being ascertained.
- Current evidence suggests COVID-19 causes more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).
- Current evidence suggests the majority of novel cases appear to be mild although approximately 20% (1 in 5) may require hospital admission including treatment in intensive care.
- The majority of those who have died have had pre-existing health conditions or are over the age of 60.

At the time of writing the current protocols assume that the incubation period before symptoms appear is up to 14 days. This may change as the epidemiology of the virus becomes clearer.

4. Council preparedness

- RBKC and WCC are working to Pandemic Flu Plans to help inform a COVID-19 response as instructed by the Chief Medical Officer for England. Both Boroughs have updated their Sovereign plans permitting alignment to ensure that both local authorities are responding consistently. This includes the approach to shared services and Bi-Borough Public Health configuration and wider partnership working. Public Health is providing daily public health advice and guidance for RBKC and WCC to inform the Councils' and partners response. Command and control of each council's response will remain sovereign and Sovereign leads have been appointed to within existing Emergency Planning structures. Plans are being reviewed and revised as the situation and planning response evolves.
- Bi-borough Public Health will be notified by Public Health England North West London Health Protection Team if a coronavirus case has been confirmed positive within Westminster or Kensington and Chelsea. Public Health do not receive

notification of any tests ongoing or collated information on residents that may be self-isolating.

- As of 26 February 2020, both Councils remain in a 'monitoring and preparedness' phase. Governance arrangements have been established for this phase. The Westminster City Council Pandemic Advisory Group and the Kensington and Chelsea Pandemic Advisory Group are both now currently meeting weekly to co-ordinate activity. Both boroughs will be sharing best practice with representatives attending each other's meetings. Public Health are meeting regularly each week with sovereign emergency planning teams to enhance preparedness. Daily briefing updates are provided to Lead members and Cabinet members.
- The Director of Public Health and the Deputy Directors of Public Health are participating in local, regional and national meetings to keep abreast of evolving guidance, feeding in and flagging preparedness issues and contributing to active planning discussions and assumptions. Key information is then cascaded to Pandemic Advisory Group Leads, Emergency Planning Leads, colleagues and partners. To date these meetings include The London Resilience Framework meetings, Chief Medical Officer for England weekly teleconferences, London and national Directors of Public Health meetings, and meetings with North West London CCGs.
- Public Health and Corporate Communications teams in both boroughs have been disseminating communications from Public Health England to internal and external partners and updating guidance accordingly when changes to advice is received from PHE.
- In the event of positive cases for COVID-19 being confirmed in the Bi-Borough the Director of Public Health will convene a Multi-agency Bi-Borough Strategic Advice Group to inform each Borough's command and control emergency planning response. Membership and terms of reference have been drafted and circulated to members.

5. Options / Considerations

- The Coronavirus (COVID-19) paper including the contemporaneous verbal update is presented to the Board for information and assurance.

6. Legal Implications

- None at this stage.

7. Financial Implications

- None at this stage.

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact:

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APPENDICES:

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS:



WCC Pandemic Local
response plan v1.3.do

WCC Pandemic Plan (Correct as of 26/02/20)

RBKC Pandemic Plan is under review and will be available prior to the meeting on March 17th.

For up to date information on the COVID-19 outbreak:

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