

## Advice on 2019 n-CoV (novel coronavirus)

### Background

It has been widely reported that a new infection causing respiratory symptoms has recently emerged in Wuhan, China. The new infection is named 2019 n-CoV and understood to cause respiratory symptoms ranging from very mild to very severe. Severe illness appears to affect people with underlying medical conditions.

The Public Health Agency (PHA) is closely monitoring the situation in collaboration with other UK organisations.

**The risk to individuals in Northern Ireland remains low and there is no expectation that it will affect individuals' day-to-day activities.**

### If you have been to Wuhan, China in the last 14 days and feel unwell:

- When in the port, please contact a member of port staff. Leaflets with advice will be available in all UK ports.
- When at home and wish to seek medical attention, please **phone ahead** before attending your GP surgery or out-of-hours service and mention your recent travel.
- When in an emergency situation, such as collapse or severe breathing difficulty, dial 999 and mention relevant recent travel.

Try to limit contact with others if you become unwell after travel until you have been assessed by a health professional.

Symptoms include:

- Temperature/fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Runny nose

## **Advice for travellers**

UK travellers are recommended to consider avoiding all but essential travel to Wuhan, China.

If travel to Wuhan is essential, you should take precautions to minimise the risk of transmission including:

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water or a disinfectant, especially after coughing and sneezing, before handling and consuming food.
- Use disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing and dispose of used tissues carefully and promptly in a bin.
- Avoid close contact with people who appear unwell and avoid sharing personal items.
- Avoid visiting live bird and animal markets, backyard or commercial poultry farms and do not touch wild or domestic birds (alive or dead).
- Avoid any contact with animals, birds or surfaces that may be contaminated with animal or bird droppings.
- Do not eat or handle undercooked or raw meat including poultry, egg or duck dishes.
- There is no vaccine against this novel coronavirus.
- Individuals should also follow any local advice provided by Public Health authorities in China.