31 January 2020

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Two patients in England have tested positive for coronavirus. Currently no cases have been diagnosed in Northern Ireland.

Based on the World Health Organization's declaration yesterday 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. For more information on this see www.gov.uk/coronavirus

The Public Health Agency is continuing to work with partners across the UK including Public Health England and our local Health Trusts on this issue. As part of this, the health service here is monitoring for any potential cases of novel Coronavirus.

A helpline has been established for anyone in Northern Ireland who has travelled to China in the past 14 days. The helpline number is 0300 200 7885.

We are not providing a running commentary on numbers of suspected cases in Northern Ireland. We will not be commenting on numbers of people being screened, and we cannot comment on any individual cases. The Department of Health and Social Care will publish UK-wide updates at 2pm on www.gov.uk/coronavirus every day until further notice.

This is an evolving situation and we will provide updates and further guidance as required.