

Further to our previous communications two cases of coronavirus have now been confirmed in the UK. We've published [further information and advice on Essentials](#) which I would encourage you to read.

The [UK's four Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk](#) for the UK from low to moderate. However, they have been clear that this relates to the need for government preparedness and planning, and **the risk to individuals remains low**. Public Health England continues to advise that the normal, common-sense steps for preventing the spread of cold and flu apply, like regular hand washing and covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing.

It is also important to note that the virus has a very low mortality rate. Public Health England has advised those who have any health vulnerability to take particular care. If you have any concerns because of any underlying medical conditions you have, please contact the [NHS helpline by telephoning 111](#).

Here at Reading, a major incident team has been set up to coordinate the University's response. Its priorities are to protect the health of members of the University community and reduce disruption of University academic activities.

If you have visited Wuhan recently

If you have returned from Wuhan in the last 14 days, [Public Health England](#) advises that you should follow this advice and:

- avoid close contact with others by remaining indoors for 14 days following return, even if you are not displaying any symptoms, and
- contact the NHS helpline on 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the city – they can provide you with advice on the right care for your needs.

Where possible, you should avoid going out and having visitors to your home, but its ok for friends, family or delivery drivers to drop off necessary things like food and medicines.

This advice to stay indoors also means not coming to classes and or other academic sessions, or using shared University services and facilities like the Library or SportsPark. Remember that you can access teaching materials on [Blackboard](#).

You should also contact your relevant Support Centre at coronavirus-students@reading.ac.uk so that the University can provide you with the right support, as well as emailing relevant members of staff if you will be missing teaching or other academic sessions. Postgraduate research students should contact your PhD supervisor or School Director of Postgraduate Research Studies and, if you're on a Tier 4 visa, you must also inform the Doctoral Research Office.

If you've travelled to Wuhan, please follow this advice even if you do not have symptoms of the virus. If you develop a fever, difficulty breathing or a cough, you should contact NHS 111 for advice and stay at home until you've been told otherwise by a medical professional.

Travelling overseas

The [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) continues to advise against all travel to Hubei Province, China, and recommends that anyone currently travelling there should leave if they are able to do so. As a result, travel to Hubei for University activity is not permitted.

The [FCO advises against all but essential travel to the rest of mainland China](#) (not including Hong Kong and Macao). The University's major incident team has decided that all University work activities should be assumed to be non-essential and trips should not proceed.

If you are travelling outside of mainland China, you should check the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office country information](#) for the latest advice. The latest [World Health Organisation situation report](#) also has information about where cases of coronavirus have been confirmed.

If you are planning overseas travel as part of your studies this academic year you should, as soon as possible, complete the online risk management form for students on [RISIS](#) (under 'Actions' select 'Student Risk Management') as required by insurance.

Support for students

If you are worried about anything arising from this advice, please contact the [NHS helpline on 111](#) or your doctor.

For our international students, access to medical care is normally through your local doctor. If you haven't registered with a doctor already, [please see our website with further information](#) about how to do this.

If you are currently overseas, whether in China or elsewhere, make sure you follow all local public health and travel advice.

We understand many of our community may be worried for family and friends in the region. Please remember our Student Welfare Team are here to offer support, including by phone and email. Find out more at www.reading.ac.uk/welfare-team.

If there are any further developments we will keep you updated on the [Me@Reading student portal](#) and [Essentials](#) so please check here for the latest information.

Kind regards,

Patricia Woodman

Director of Student Services