Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19):

Local stakeholder information – Bolton

The UK Chief Medical Officer has confirmed that further patients have tested positive for COVID-19 infection today (10 March 2020) bringing the total number of cases in the England to 373.

It means the number of cases in Bolton is now three.

Public Health England, Bolton Council, and the local NHS are working closely together in the North West to respond. Public Health England is currently contacting people who may have had close contact with the confirmed case. Close contacts will be given health advice about symptoms and emergency contact details to use if they become unwell in the 14 days after they had contact with the confirmed case. This tried and tested method will ensure that any risk to them is minimised and the wider public is protected.

We will not be commenting further on the details of these cases due to the need to protect patient confidentiality.

We understand that the announcement of additional cases may cause concern, but we want to reassure residents that we are continuing to work closely with Public Health England, the NHS and all our health and care partners to prevent further spread of the virus.

We continue to stress the importance of regular hand washing to residents.

- Catch it – Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze
- Bin it – Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.
- Kill it – Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.

The UK is well prepared for these types of incidents and there is rapid and effective testing undertaken by PHE for this virus. The priority is to safeguard local communities which sometimes involves taking preventative measures to help reduce the risk of further cases.

The NHS and council have expert teams of highly-trained staff and specialist hospital units around the country ready to receive and care for any patients with any highly infectious disease. The NHS and council adhere to the highest safety standards for the protection of its staff, patients and the public.

Based on current evidence, Coronavirus COVID-19 presents with flu-like symptoms including a fever, a cough, or difficulty breathing. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild.

Anyone who is concerned about health symptoms is advised to follow www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/.

We will update this briefing for partners as more information becomes available.

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Director of Public Health