

No. 105/2020

Ref: DJ/ML

Date: 5 March 2020

TO ALL BRANCHES WITH BT MEMBERS

Dear Colleague

BT PERSONNEL - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Union has been in discussions with BT during the past week on the Coronavirus outbreak.

The general advice from Public Health England is outlined below including the link as the advice may change over time. This also covers guidance for people who may have visited affected areas and general hygiene.

There is also a link to the NHS 111 online service.

Further information from the World Health Organisation is also given.

World Health Organisation <https://www.who.int/>

Public Health England – Present Advice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

The advice for anyone in any setting is to follow these main guidelines.

1. If you have been in contact with someone with coronavirus or have returned from an [affected area](#) identified by the Chief Medical Officer as high risk and you are feeling unwell with a cough, difficulty breathing or fever, stay at home and use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus service or call NHS 111.
2. Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so. Use hand sanitiser if that's all you have access to.
3. To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don't have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel.
4. Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

As mentioned above, the situation could change but the links within this LTB should help members to keep up-to-date with the medical advice.

Any enquiries from Branches regarding this LTB should be referred to my office in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Dave Jukes
Assistant Secretary