

Number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and risk in the UK

Find out the number of cases and risk level in the UK, what to do if you have symptoms, and what the government is doing about the virus.

Published 24 January 2020

Last updated 12 March 2020 — [see all updates](#)

From:

[Department of Health and Social Care](#) and [Public Health England](#)

What to do if you have symptoms

Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

This will help to protect others in your community while you are infectious.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

We will not be testing those self-isolating with mild symptoms.

[COVID-19: stay at home guidance](#)

Number of cases

As of 9am on 12 March 2020, 29,764 people have been tested in the UK, of which 29,174 were confirmed negative and 590 were confirmed as positive. Eight patients who tested positive for COVID-19 have died.

Cases identified in England

[Change between chart and table](#)

NHS region	Cases
East of England	32
London	136
Midlands	44
North East and Yorkshire	44

NHS region	Cases
North West	53
South East	83
South West	42
To be determined	57
Total	491

Cases	
32	East of England
136	London
44	Midlands
44	North East and Yorkshire
53	North West
83	South East
42	South West
57	To be determined
491	Total

[Confirmed cases in each local authority and NHS region](#) are published by Public Health England (PHE).

Risk level

Based on the World Health Organization's declaration that this is a public health emergency of international concern, the [UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the UK from low to moderate](#).

Recent government action

The government published its [coronavirus action plan](#) on 3 March. On 10 February, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, announced [strengthened legal powers to protect public health](#). [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) Regulations 2020](#) have been put in place to reduce the risk of further human-to-human transmission in this country by keeping individuals in isolation where public health professionals believe there is a reasonable risk an individual may have the virus.

Diagnosis and analysis

The UK is one of the first countries outside China to have a prototype specific laboratory test for this new disease. Healthcare professionals who are contacted by a patient with symptoms following travel to an affected area have been advised to submit samples to PHE for testing. Individuals should be treated in isolation.

After the experience of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003, PHE developed a series of diagnostic tests to detect any member of the family of coronaviruses. These have been used for several years, and were able to detect the first UK case of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2012.

With the first reported publication of the genome sequence of a 2019 novel coronavirus, PHE was able to rapidly develop further specific tests for this virus, working with WHO and global network of laboratories.

When a clinician suspects novel coronavirus (COVID-19), they take samples from the nose, throat and deeper respiratory samples, package and send them safely to PHE Colindale. PHE can provide a laboratory result from this specific virus on the same working day.

PHE also has the capability to sequence the viral genome and compare this to published sequences from China, if a case occurs. This will provide valuable information on any mutations in the virus over time and allow an improved understanding of how it spreads.

Further information

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#)

[Travel advice: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for health professionals and other organisations](#)

Guidance for Staying at Home:

Published 12 March 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

This guidance is for people with confirmed or possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who are required to stay at home.

The main messages are:

- if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. (See Ending Isolation section below for more information)
- this action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home

- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible
- sleep alone, if that is possible
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water
- stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible
- you do not need to call NHS111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999