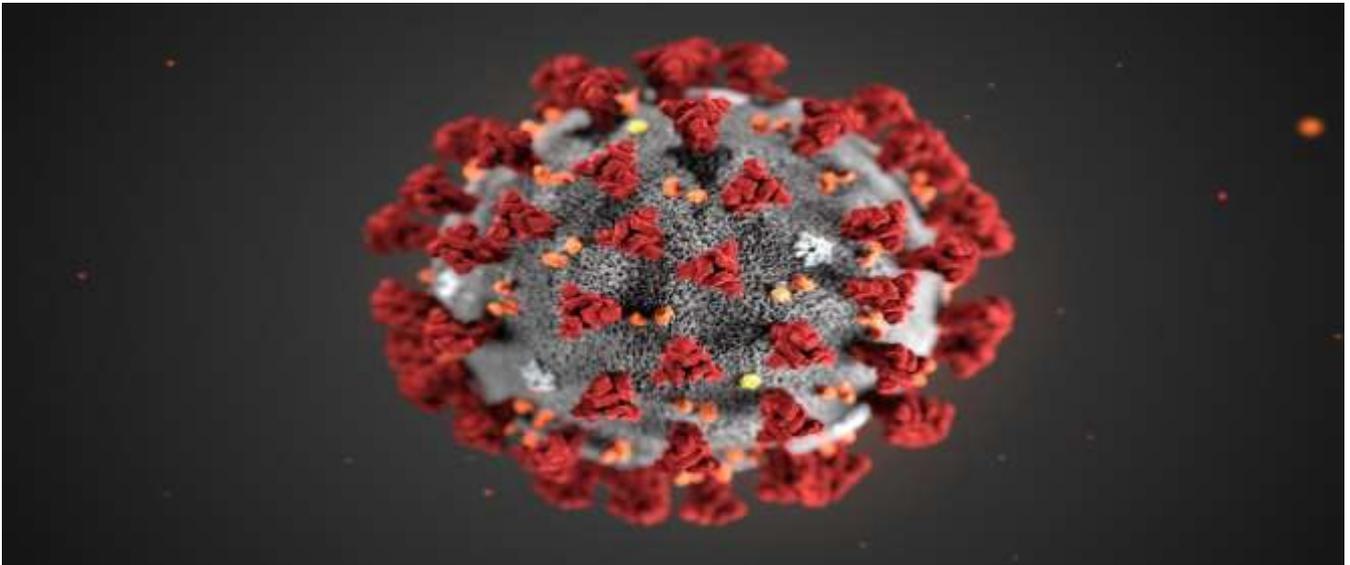


Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Diweddariad / Update: Mawrth 12 March 2020



Welcome to the first edition of a newsletter, aimed at keeping you informed of developments with Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Our intention is to provide a weekly update on a Thursday afternoon, but this will be subject to review, based on any developments nationally, regionally or locally in Denbighshire.

The National Picture (Information provided by Public Health Wales)

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Wales has risen by six to 25. There is a first case of Covid-19 in Wrexham, making it the first in north Wales. Separate cases in Cardiff and Monmouthshire are linked to travel abroad and two new cases in Neath Port Talbot are contacts of a previous case. The process of identifying and contacting close contacts of the new cases is under way.

Dr Robin Howe, incident director with Public Health Wales said of the Wrexham case, and another in Blaenau Gwent: "These two cases have no history of travel to a country where the virus is circulating, and are not known to have had contact with another confirmed case."

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He added that they were taking all appropriate actions to protect the public's health. A roll-out of video health consultations across Wales, in response to the coronavirus outbreak, has been given the go-ahead.

People will need a smartphone, tablet or computer with a webcam running Chrome or Safari browsers to use it. The technology has already been trialled in the Aneurin Bevan health board area since last summer. The aim is for people to be able to speak to their GP or health centre without leaving home.

The national and Welsh Governments have also confirmed today that any staff showing any temperature or cough from Friday, 13 March onwards will be asked to self-isolate for seven days.

The Local Picture in Denbighshire

No cases have been confirmed in our county, but our services will be implementing their business continuity plans from tomorrow and how we will respond if coronavirus becomes more widespread and whether there is a need for us to take specific action to reduce the risk of infection to staff and to the wider public.

A Frequently Asked Questions and guidance document for managers and staff has been produced to answer some of the questions being asked. This document will be updated as time goes on, but it offers managers guidance on public health, what happens if a person becomes unwell, information on self isolation and what to do if colleagues become unwell.

Staff are offered guidance on what happens if the Council decides to close their place of work; employees rights if they are planning to go on holiday; the position if you're a parent or guardian and your child's school closes and what happens if you're a carer and support normally offered by other agencies is not available.

The full Frequently Asked Questions can be found [in the attachment](#)

If you have any HR enquiries, please contact the HR Helpdesk on extn 6200.

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If you have a question of a medical nature and you're concerned about health, phone the NHS Helpline on 111.

The Health Advice by Public Health Wales:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water and not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and do not attend work
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin, and then wash your hands immediately.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in work (and at home).

The latest advice is available from:

Public Health Wales: www.phw.wales.uk or Welsh Government: www.gov.wales

And don't forget...

The Council's Corporate Emergency Information Team will be responsible for collating and approving any communications messages in relation to Coronavirus. For further information and guidance, please contact CEIT through the Communications team, on 01824 70(6222).