

**All Staff Email**  
**Thursday 12 March**

Dear colleagues,

Following an all student email last night, and my email to staff last week, I thought it was important to write again to update you all on the current situation relating to Coronavirus (Covid-19).

Firstly, I can verify that at the present time there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus at the University of Chichester. The Senior Management Team (SMT) is closely monitoring the national and regional updates from both Public Health England and the NHS. At present there have been 590 confirmed cases within the UK, which is a relatively low number overall, both in terms of an actual number, and as a proportion of the total population of c.66million. In terms of further context, at the time of writing there have been just three confirmed cases in the region of West Sussex, which has a population of c.850,000 people. Public Health England provide this data publicly and the website link is here:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/f94c3c90da5b4e9f9a0b19484dd4bb14>)

Secondly, and as a result of this information and following the advice of Public Health England (PHE), it has been decided that at the present time the University will continue to operate normally. Of course, we ask all of our students and staff to refer to the information on our website, which is being updated regularly and is available through the main University homepage, Moodle and the intranet site. The page is available here - <https://www.chi.ac.uk/student-life/support-health-wellbeing/novel-coronavirus>

This page links to several PHE and NHS websites, where recommendations are made around handwashing, good hygiene and self-isolation if you suspect you may be suffering from the illness.

We ask all staff to continue to deliver teaching sessions as usual, and as some of you will have seen we have encouraged all students to attend these. There are no current plans for the University to close or for taught sessions to be postponed or cancelled.

Regular meetings are occurring to ensure the situation is monitored locally, advice is provided and to ensure that national guidance is followed. Obviously, in the days and weeks to come it is possible that infections will rise in number, and as a result of this PHE and Government advice would change. At that time, we will communicate with you as to what implications there might be.

In preparation for this potential change, we are asking colleagues to work together in planning for a range of potential scenarios. Directors and Heads of Department will inform you of what is required, but essentially we would like staff to consider how to plan for several eventualities, including delivery of some teaching and evaluation in a remote format. This may become more important in the weeks to come, if the number of cases rises and we see a university wide shut down programme in operation.

More information will be shared as soon as any further decisions are taken. Please be assured, the safety and wellbeing of our community of both students and staff is of paramount importance to us.

Best regards,

**Professor Jane Longmore**  
Vice-Chancellor