Hello Sammy,

Many of you will by now be aware of the increased media coverage and focus on Brighton in relation to Coronavirus. I am sure that this will be causing you some concern and I wanted to take a moment to confirm that the University remains open as usual and to reassure you about what we are doing as an institution.

Firstly, you may have seen coverage of the closure of Brighton’s County Oak medical centre after a staff member tested positive for Coronavirus. Patients at this surgery have already been contacted and have been advised to contact the NHS 111 phone service if they have concerns.

You may have also seen the recent coverage saying that a University of Sussex student is being tested for Coronavirus after returning from a trip abroad. This is also being managed with advice from Public Health England (PHE).

Whilst undoubtedly unsettling, the risk to the UK, as reported by PHE, continues to be reported as low to moderate. This permits the government to plan for all eventualities. The risk however to individuals remains low. The University's Incident Response Team is meeting regularly and working closely with PHE and ensuring we follow all appropriate guidance.

PHE have reassured us that our response and planning is appropriate given the current level of risk. We are continuing to closely monitor the situation, and will continue to liaise with PHE to ensure that we implement and take appropriate further steps if required.

We continue to recommend that our students register with local health services.
Advice if you are feeling unwell

Should you be feeling unwell please call 111 or seek medical advice from a doctor, particularly if you are experiencing respiratory symptoms such as a cough, fever or breathing difficulties. PHE has asked us to reiterate again the importance of practicing good hygiene including:

- Frequently cleaning your hands by using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing
- Binning the tissue immediately and washing your hands
- Avoiding close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough.

See the latest Coronavirus information
Advice for those with travel concerns

If you have concerns about travel or are worried about family and friends who could be near to the impacted region including Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Macau please click here for travel advice.

Non-medical advice

For non-medical advice, please contact your Student Support and Guidance Tutor (SSGT) if you have been impacted by the outbreak or would like to speak to someone about it at the University.

And finally, you may have also seen some of the coverage of the negative behaviour that some international students studying in the UK have recently experienced. We are a University that prides itself on our diversity and inclusivity. You will, I am sure, have empathy for the international members of our student community who may be finding this a particularly difficult time. So please do continue to offer them your support and friendship.

We will continue to keep you updated. In the meantime we have drafted a set of FAQs which you may find helpful. Should you have any questions about the contents of this email please do get in touch via communications@brighton.ac.uk

Best regards

Stephen Dudderidge
Registrar and Secretary

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