Dear Sammy,

I am sure that you are all watching the emerging situation regarding the global spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Further to my earlier messages I thought it would be helpful to once again reiterate the current official advice and guidance.

Whilst the COVID-19 outbreak is unsettling it is important to keep things in perspective. As of 4 March, of the 16,659 people tested for the virus in the UK, 16,574 proved to be negative with the 85 who have proved positive mostly having mild flu-like symptoms and making a full recovery after a few days.

Public Health England advice remains that the risk to individuals in the UK remains low.

---

Play your part

1. The most important thing that all of us can do is to follow the simple official guidance to help to stop the virus from spreading:
   - Catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue and bin the tissue
   - Wash your hands with soap and water regularly
   - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
   - Avoid sharing items such as cups and bottles

2. Anyone who feels unwell with flu-like symptoms should call NHS111 or their GP surgery and avoid close contact with others until they have received advice.

3. Anyone travelling back from Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei Province in China **must self-isolate** for 14 days even if they have no symptoms.

Anyone travelling back from China or South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan or Thailand, other parts of northern Italy, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar or Vietnam who have a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath (even if your symptoms are mild) should also self-isolate.

---

Keep up to date with the latest travel advice
What we are doing

An Incident Response Team has been established to monitor the situation and to co-ordinate our response. This includes close liaison with Public Health England who have assured us that we are taking all of the appropriate steps to manage the current situation and to plan for future contingencies.

Based on current Public Health England advice the University continues to operate as normal.

We have also published comprehensive information on our website which includes our responses to frequently asked questions and we will continue to keep this updated.

Follow official guidance

There is, understandably, a lot of speculation and misinformation about COVID-19 circulating on social media. We would encourage all our students to refer to official guidance for information:

- Latest daily public updates from the Department of Health & Social Care and Public Health England
- Latest NHS advice
- Latest official international travel advice
- Official advice on self-isolation
- Read the UK Government's Coronavirus Action Plan

Any concerns

If you have any specific concerns or issues that are not addressed by any of the official guidance or other information we have provided then you can either:

- Speak to your Student Support and Guidance Tutor
- Email communications@brighton.ac.uk

We will continue to keep you updated.

Best regards

Stephen Dudderidge
Registrar and Secretary