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| **Covid 19 (coronavirus) – briefing 1** |

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Issued 13 March 2020

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| **Below is the first briefing on the activity in managing the response to COVID 19 (Coronavirus). The position is changing continuously across the country but at this time, there are no positive cases in Inverclyde.** |

**Management and planning -**

Since the outbreak of Covid 19 (Coronavirus) the council has escalated its Council Resilience Management Team (CRMT) has been meeting weekly and will now meet more regularly as required.

The CRMT reports to the Corporate Management Team (CMT). This has been to the normal Thursday meeting, though in the past week special CMT meetings have been convened as national announcements and emerging situations have developed. Additional CMT meetings will be programmed next week.

A local resilience partnership (LRP) meeting is programmed for next weeks with multi-agency partners from across Renfrewshire.

The CRMT meetings have representatives from all council services and the HSCP, is chaired by Martin McNab and supported by Mark Harris of the Civil Contingencies Service.

Separately Greater Glasgow and Clyde side has stood up its pandemic flu plan and activated their strategic and tactical teams across GG&C. Locally the Local Resilience Management Team (LRMT) is acting as the incident management group. This is a multi-agency health and social care and is chaired by Louise Long to co-ordinate the local health and care response to Covid 19 (Coronavirus). This builds on planning which has been taking place over the last month.

This group has representatives from across the health and social care side, trade unions, third sector and council representatives from the council’s public protection, human resources, communications and health & safety.

**Health advice -**

It has been announced by the Scottish Government that as of 13 March anyone developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, however mild should self-isolate for seven days.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

* new continuous cough and/or
* high temperature

If symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days then people should be advised to phone their GP or NHS24 (111).

**Port activity -**

A meeting has been held this week at ocean terminal with representatives from Peel, public protection and NHS to examine the port arrangements and planning for Covid 19 (Coronavirus).  This will be reviewed by the CRMT next week to plan ahead for the international cruise season beginning in May.

**Schools –**

Schools have been encouraged to promote good hand hygiene and cleaning to help limit the spread of infection in the wider community.

No decision has been taken on the widespread closure of schools across the UK or Scotland and officers continue to liaise with COSLA and the Scottish Government.

Specific arrangements have been made in schools involving our more vulnerable pupils.  For example buses used by young people will be ‘deep cleaned’ before more vulnerable pupils use them such as our pupils at Craigmarloch.

Cleaning staff across schools are being offered additional hours to provide more frequent cleaning during the day to help maintain good hand hygiene.

The science fayre planned at Notre Dame has been postponed as a precaution due to its hands on nature.

Planning ahead for the possibility that, like other countries schools and other facilities may require to close, teachers have been examining options for carrying out learning online through the GLOW system.

Plans are also being developed to allow, should schools require to close, a limited free school meals service for young people who may require it during any period of closure.

Assuming future closure of facilities, staff are being canvassed to find out skills that could be used to support other services, particularly health and social care services in particular home care.

**Sports –**

The SFA and SPFL has today announced the suspension of all domestic professional and grassroots football in Scotland until further notice.  This affects all youth football taking place in Inverclyde and parents/young people are encouraged to speak with their club coaches to find out how this affects any planned games or training.

While this affects official games carried out by clubs, individuals who arrange their own football or other sports activity can still book pitches through Inverclyde Leisure.

Scottish rugby has today followed and it is expected that other national sports organisations could follow this and the communities services will continue to liaise with them.

**Communications-**

As the advice is changing on a daily and, potentially, hourly basis, the communications is focussed on encouraging residents and staff to access the most up to date health and travel advice.

A dedicated page has been created at [www.inverclyde.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/coronavirus) which will include any local updates or service changes and includes links to national health and travel advice include NHS Inform, Public Health Scotland and the World Health Organisation.

All communications should be channelled through corporate communications which will then update this page to encourage people to use this as a single trusted source of information and advice.