

# **Novel coronavirus – new Scottish testing facilities**

**Coronavirus has become a term we understand over recent weeks. Now, The Scottish Government has news of two testing facilities. These have been established to check for possible cases of what is now called *novel coronavirus* in Scotland.**

**From Monday two laboratories, one in Glasgow and one in Edinburgh, will begin to process all tests from Scotland.**

The new facilities in Scotland mean that any negative test results can be returned to the patient more quickly. Previously, all samples have been sent to London for testing.

Scotland's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Catherine Calderwood, said: "Ever since the beginning of this global outbreak we have been working hard to develop a testing facility within Scotland. I am pleased that we will now have two Scottish facilities, greatly reducing the time it takes to confirm negative results.

"Although all Scottish tests have so far been negative, we are prepared for the high likelihood that we will also see a positive case in Scotland.

“Our NHS is well equipped to deal with infections of this kind. We have a proven track record of dealing with challenging health issues, and have been preparing for this possibility since the beginning of the outbreak.”

The World Health Organisation is sending a team to China where coronavirus is believed to have originated are sending a team to China early this week.