

Two further cases of COVID-19 in Scotland

The Scottish Government says that the public have vital role to play in helping contain any outbreak.

As expected by the Chief Medical Officer there have been two further patients in Scotland who have tested positive for COVID-19.

This brings the total number of cases to three.

Both patients are currently clinically well and are receiving appropriate clinical care.

Due to patient confidentiality, the government will not release any more details. One patient lives in the Grampian area, and the second patient lives in the Ayrshire area.

One patient has recently travelled to northern Italy and the other has had contact with a known positive case – this contact was not with the first positive case confirmed in Scotland.

Clinicians have begun contact tracing, the process of gathering details of the places they have visited and the people they have been in contact with.

The government stress that this tracing process does not involve people the patients may have passed on the street or in a shop – as the risk in these situations is very low.

Close contact involves either face-to-face contact or spending more than 15 minutes within two metres of an infected person.

Those at risk of infection will be contacted by health protection teams for further advice. Those who are not contacted are not at risk. There have been 914 negative test

results in Scotland since the start of the outbreak.

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said:“Our first thoughts must be with the patients diagnosed with coronavirus, I wish them a full and speedy recovery.

“We expect the number of cases to rise and Scotland is well-prepared for a significant outbreak of coronavirus. There is currently no treatment or vaccine so early detection measures will continue to be vital in helping to prevent the spread of the virus.

“People have a vital role to play in helping us contain any outbreak by following the latest health and travel advice, and following basic hygiene precautions, such as washing hands frequently, not touching their face and covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.”

Scotland’s Chief Medical Officer Dr Catherine Calderwood said:“Firstly our thoughts are with those who have been diagnosed, and with their families.

“Scotland 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.

“We practice and prepare our response to disease outbreaks and follow tried and tested procedures, following the highest safety standards possible for the protection of NHS staff, patients and the public.”

Advice for travellers who have visited affected areas is available at [NHS Inform](#).

More advice on travel can be found on [Fit for Travel](#) and the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#).

[NHS Inform Q&A](#)

Up to date information on the situation in Scotland is [being published by Scottish Government](#).