



Coronavirus update: Sensible advice from PSA and EIF

The [Production Services Association](#) has issued advice to events professionals following a conference call with the Government's deputy chief medical officer to discuss the latest information and actions regarding coronavirus.

Jim Winship, secretary of the [Events Industry Forum](#), was also part of the call and made the following notes, which should be shared widely with the events community.

- Coronavirus is part of a family of virus', which range from the common cold to SARS and MERS.
- There is some evidence that it is very rare for those under 25 to get coronavirus.
- The vast majority of those catching coronavirus will suffer not more than typical cold symptoms and then get better. Recovery is about a week.
- A small proportion of people – those with underlying symptoms (diabetics etc) and elderly over 60 – are at greater risk. The main risk is severe pneumonia.
- 98 per cent of those catching coronavirus will just get better.
- It is very unlikely that there will be any vaccine available for around 18 months.
- The most likely places for the virus to spread are in the home, at school or in the workplace.
- It is highly unlikely people will pick up the virus walking in the street or shopping etc.
- Transmission is generally by close contact.
- Equally it is less likely they will pick the virus up at outdoor events than on a crowded underground or in a packed pub after a football match.
- There is currently no plan to ban any events in the UK.
- Surfaces like stainless steel, wood etc. do not seem to harbour viruses like this – plastic, on the other hand, does.
- Washing hands is important.
- People should continue to go about their normal lives but if they feel unwell, they should stay at home.
- Government may issue specific advice for vulnerable groups, but nothing is planned at the moment.
- It is unlikely that the UK Government will follow others in banning events, such as football matches, as the risk of catching the virus is low and they are keen for people to continue to live their lives normally.
- Rather than event cancellation, organisers should perhaps check with attendees to see if they should consider not attending. The Meetings Industry Association has devised a decision tree, which can be [found here](#).

According to the PSA, the general feeling during the call was that [businesses should continue to run normally](#) unless things dramatically change.