

Media Release

embargo until 12.00 noon 9 March 2020

Date: 9 March 2020

First case of COVID-19 in the Bailiwick confirmed

The Director of Public Health, Dr Nicola Brink, has announced the first positive case of COVID-19 in the Bailiwick.

The patient returned from Tenerife (a Group B country) and became symptomatic (a cough, fever or shortness of breath) on their return.

Dr Brink said:

‘The patient has a clear travel history, indicating the likely source of infection. This underlines our consistent messaging to the community that if you return from a Group B country and show symptoms, however mild, you should contact the coronavirus helpline for advice and to get tested’.

The patient concerned sought help promptly and is doing well and being supported by the relevant health care professionals.

It is important to note that the vast majority of cases (over 80%), infection with the virus causing COVID-19 is mild. Unlike flu, current indications are that individuals who are showing no symptoms (asymptomatic) are unlikely to be contagious.

All Health and social care professionals are using tried and tested infection control procedures to prevent further spread of the virus. We ask that the community respects the privacy of the individual concerned as we work to provide them with the best possible care.

The Bailiwick is extremely well prepared and used to managing infections and we are already working rapidly to identify any contacts to contain any further spread.

The Bailiwick has been preparing for a case of novel coronavirus and we have robust measures in place to respond immediately. We are continuing to work with Public Health England for advice and guidance.

For further information please go to the website www.gov.gg/coronavirus. For clinical concerns please call the coronavirus helpline 756938 or 756969

Ends

Notes to Media

The virus was originally referred to as 2019-nCoV novel coronavirus. On 11 February 2020 the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses designated a name to this new coronavirus-**Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)**. On the same day, the World Health Organization named the disease that is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 as **COVID-19**.

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