# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE** | **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** |
| **DATE** | **12 March 2020** |
| **BY** | **Vaughan Gething, Minister for Health and Social Services** |

The WHO has now declared coronavirus a pandemic. We are continuing to plan and co-ordinate our response so that NHS Wales is prepared as far as possible to respond to the situation.

A number of new cases have been confirmed by the Chief Medical Officer for Wales over the last two days.

This brings the total number of confirmed cases to 19.

The announcement can be found here:

[CMO announcement](https://gov.wales/announcements/search?field_policy_areas%5B980%5D=980)

From Thursday 12 March, daily updates at 11.00 am on the numbers of confirmed cases will be published on Public Health Wales’ website.

[PHW](https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/)

As part of our response to coronavirus (COVID-19), I have authorised the accelerated national roll out of a national video consultation service across Wales.

Thisis a web-based service that enables video consultation between NHS professionals and patients. This means that patients will be able to remain in self-isolation whilst receiving care from their own GP, face-to-face. This will be a key channel for information and advice to support people. It will also reduce pressure on our hard-working front-line services.

We will consider, in conjunction with the UK Ministers and the Scottish and Northern Irish governments, what further measures we can take to protect the health of the people of Wales.