



As you'll be aware the World Health Organisation has now described the coronavirus COVID19 outbreak as a pandemic. This is due to the significant increase in person to person infection in multiple countries around the world. The UK government are currently looking to implement measures to help delay the spread of the outbreak.

This could result in the closure of schools, colleges and other public spaces to slow the outbreak and the pressure that the NHS is going to face. As a major supplier of specials to the hospitals, NHS and Private, it is important that ITH Pharma has a robust contingency plan to cope with potential problems and ensure that disruption to services is minimised.

We know how much the hospitals rely on ITH Pharma to supply critical patients treatment, and if there were to be any supply issues that this would put added pressure on resources at a critical time. To help we have already implemented our business continuity plan.

Staff Awareness and Safety

This has been implemented with an extensive poster campaign throughout the company, emphasizing the importance of handwashing. This is also backed up by continuous reminders displayed on the company's internal TV network. As a compounding company, our staff are well versed in correct hand washing technique as part of their daily routine and maintaining clean surfaces throughout our facility.

As additional precautions:

- We are undertaking increased random testing of personnel to ensure hand washing compliance
- Undertaking hourly steam cleaning, outside of the cleanroom suite, of all common touch areas e.g. door handles, door push plates, taps and fingerprint readers.
- Hand sanitising agents at all entrance and exit points to the buildings.
- All non-essential events or meetings have been cancelled.
- Take home information leaflets to offer support for staff and their families.
- Visitors to site have been limited to all but essential ones.
- Staff educational visits to partner hospitals have been cancelled.

We also advise our teams to keep up to date with information supplied by the government at the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>



Product Supply

We continuously monitor supply levels and supply chain for all products that our critical to our service; This includes bags, syringes, drugs and consumables like gloves and masks that are key to keeping ITH Pharma running. A lot of these items, in common with the rest of our industry, come from China and Italy, and therefore possible supply issues may evolve over the coming weeks or months. We are looking at alternative avenues where possible to minimise any supply disruption for all of our customers.

All consumables that may be impacted have already been notified to the Department of Health and the MHRA, as well as ongoing coordinated work with the Commercial Compounders Group through the BSNA.

We have also taken the step of not accepting or increasing new workload to ensure continued and consistent supply to existing customers.

Contingency

We have planned ahead for the unfortunate scenario that the outbreak affects our staffing level. To do this we have determined the appropriate staffing level required to maintain critical services. Staff leave has been limited and staff who are on or planning to take annual leave over the next few months have been requested to remain in the UK and be available in the event of reduced staff numbers.

Follow Guidelines

By ensuring we follow the guidelines issued by the government's chief Scientific and Medical Officers we can aim to maintain supply and assist hospitals at this time, as this will help to give us the best chance of reducing the effects of this virus and allow us to continue to supply critical products.