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BREXIT AND THE WUHAN NOVEL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Following several recent updates on both the evolving situation with the outbreak of the coronavirus in China, and the imminent deadline of BREXIT, this week continues to be a challenging one for our industry.

As our CEO, Deirdre Wells OBE, sits on the Tourism Industry Emergency Response (TIER) group, we felt it was important to provide our partners with the very latest information and updates being circulated from VisitBritain.

We will continue to share any relevant updates with partners as and when we receive them.

THE WUHAN NOVEL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Tourism Concerns to Government

VisitBritain and DCMS will continue to feed in tourism concerns to Government. Please continue to keep us informed and we will relay these to DCMS/VisitBritain as appropriate.

Situation update as of 28th January

- There are currently no confirmed cases in the UK or of UK citizens abroad, and the risk to the public is low. The government is monitoring the situation closely and will continue to work with the World Health Organization (WHO) and international community.
- The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is working to make an option available for British nationals to leave Hubei Province due to the heavy travel restrictions and increased difficulty of accessing consular or medical assistance. [See the full announcement here](#)

Updated advice for travellers from Wuhan as of 28th January

- Public Health England are asking anyone in the UK who has returned from Wuhan in the last 14 days to self-isolate. Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people – and to contact NHS 111. If you are in Northern Ireland, you should phone your GP.
- Public Health England are also asking people to follow this advice even if they do not have symptoms of the virus.

What this means in practice

- People are asked to take simple, common-sense steps to avoid close contact with other people as much as possible, like they would with other flu viruses.
- This means remaining at home for 14 days after arriving from Wuhan and not going to work, school or public areas.
- Where possible, you should avoid having visitors to your home, but it's ok for friends, family or delivery drivers to drop off food
- Transport - you should not use public transport or taxis until 14

days after your return from Wuhan.

- Getting food and medicine – it is recommended that you stay at home for 14 days after arriving from Wuhan, and avoid public places. Where possible, contact a friend, family member or delivery services to carry out errands on your behalf.

Advice for tourism businesses

- Chinese authorities have ordered all their national travel agencies and online travel companies to temporarily suspend business, leisure, group travel and 'ticket and hotel' products effective immediately. Whilst individual travel has not been mentioned specifically, the authorities are keen to ensure that the disease is contained.
- The Chinese Government are asking travel companies, operators and tourism businesses around the world to facilitate booking changes and cancellations to help reduce the movement of crowds and reduce the spread of the virus. At the moment the Chinese Government are not offering any compensation to cancelled groups.

This is a fast-moving situation and the best source of information for any visitors with individual questions or concerns is **Public Health England**. Visitors can keep up to date with the latest advice from the UK Government's website [here](#) and [here](#) - this page is being updated daily at 2pm until further notice.

BREXIT

As you know the UK is set to leave the EU on 31st January at 23.00 UK time. We then enter a transition period until December 2020.

Over the past week, VisitBritain has been working in Europe to share a message of reassurance that nothing is going to change after 31st January.

They have released a reassurance press release that can be shared as well as some examples of positive press coverage in Europe (France, Germany and Spain) from the past couple of days.

The UK Government has updated the [Visiting the UK: information for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens](#) page on gov.uk to reflect the latest advice.

VisitBritain has shared key travel information on their website, [VisitBritain.com](#) and translated it into eight European languages.

Reassurance assets in local languages will be launched on VisitBritain's channels **from 31st January** and they will be available for partners to share.

VISITBRITIAN PRESS RELEASE

VISITBRITIAN COVERAGE SNAPSHOT

Tourism support and advice

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