

Coronavirus (Covid-19) is currently on everyone's minds, so we wanted to take time some time to address any concerns people may be having.

There has been some worry and false reports that the virus can be spread between humans and animals, however the World Health Organisation have said that there is no evidence to support this claim.

There has been one report of a dog testing positive for the virus in Hong Kong, however it was not showing any symptoms. As the dog's owner had already tested positive for the virus, it is now considered that the most likely explanation is that the swabs taken from the dog were contaminated or the viral particles were present on the dog due to it living in close proximity to the owner. There is no evidence to suggest the dog was infected with the virus.

The World Health Organisation goes on to say that although the virus is thought to have originated in the wild and passed to humans via live animal markets in China, it is extremely unlikely to jump to another species.

The virus is spread through airborne droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. The viral particles in the droplets can survive on some surfaces which is why it is advised that you do not touch your face and wash hands regularly after touching communal items.

Current research shows that the virus can only survive outside the body for a few hours (24 hours maximum on certain surfaces and in favourable temperatures.)

This is much less compared to some other viruses such as the common Flu virus which can survive for several days.

The NHS lists symptoms as

- Cough
- High temperature
- Shortness of breath

We have made all our staff aware of this and asked them to inform us if they develop any of these.

The NHS advice is that the best way to protect yourself against the virus is

- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available/convenient
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin and wash your hands after
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

All of our experts carry hand sanitiser as standard and as normal they will continue to wash their hands before, during (if required) and after each session.

At the start of each session we have always made a point of telling participants that for general hygiene reasons they should refrain from eating during the session and they should wash their hands at the end.

We will provide all participants with hand sanitiser should they desire.

As a company we are very committed to ensuring the safety of our customers. We are in constant contact with each of our experts who have been advised to report any symptoms contact with someone who does. We will ensure that any affected staff members will not attend any of our sessions, neither Animal or Science Experiment.