**Introduction and organisational preparedness** – Public Health England

Updated 12 April 2020

*“In preparedness for implementing these control measures all healthcare organisations should undertake planning, and test the preparedness response for the various phases of a pandemic. This includes:*

* *an assessment of their facilities’ current capabilities. Healthcare services will not be able to operate under ‘business as usual’ during a COVID-19 pandemic. An assessment of the practical ability to deliver care and implement control measures under the pressure of an exceptional number of patient admissions and reduced staff numbers due to illness must be assessed; ensuring their facilities’ most current blueprints are readily available and accessible if needed to make necessary changes*
* *an assessment of the current workforce*
* *social distancing of 2 metres should be facilitated wherever this is possible*
* *working in a multidisciplinary team with healthcare and social care leaders or managers, engineering, and clinical staff to plan for segregation of patients and or services and creation of adequate isolation rooms; identifying potential areas that could be converted effectively with minimum modifications*
* *defining engineering, administrative, and personnel requirements that can be efficiently implemented during a pandemic COVID-19 event*
* *key areas such as emergency departments, outpatients, triage, reception desks, specialist departments will need to have plans in place to manage patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19*
* *patients with long term conditions who develop symptoms of COVID-19 who need to attend the hospital for treatment or an outpatient appointment will need information on alternative arrangements”*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/introduction-and-organisational-preparedness>