Statement for Chinese students and staff - 2 Feb 2020

Update on the Coronavirus

We understand that many of our students and staff are very concerned about the events surrounding the confirmed case of coronavirus in York. We have been working with Public Health England, who are the lead agency in managing this situation. We have, with their agreement, issued regular information via email and on our website. While we recognise that incidences of coronavirus are not specific to any particular nationality, following a meeting between the Vice-Chancellor and representatives of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association we agreed that it would be helpful to issue a joint statement to ensure that messaging reaches all parts of our community. We want you to know that we understand how concerned you must feel not only for your own personal situation but of course also for your friends and family who may be impacted by coronavirus wherever they are in the world. We are also aware that the nature of medical issues such as this can often lead to false stories and rumours that are untrue.

In working with Public Health England, we have established this webpage, www.york.ac.uk/alert, as the key platform where all accurate information concerning not only the incidence of diagnosed coronavirus in York but the wider advice from government and PHE will be posted. The other source of accurate and up to date information is gov.uk/coronavirus.

You should disregard any other information that you see with regard to the virus. We are also aware that media outlets have been contacting staff and students for commentary on this situation. You should not feel that you have to respond to any of these queries and you are very welcome to pass on all such requests to the University’s media relations team on press@york.ac.uk and they will handle such queries on behalf of the University.

It is important to understand that the University of York student who has tested positive for the virus was affected when they were not on campus. As soon as one of the people they came into contact with showed symptoms they contacted the emergency services and they were all taken to a specialist medical facility in Newcastle where the two patients were diagnosed with the virus. Further, the student was not on campus or in any student accommodation either in the period of time when they may have been infectious or after they experienced symptoms. (这位确诊的约克学生，在接触到的一名患者出现症状时，连同被带往纽卡斯尔的一所专科医院检查并确诊感染新型冠状病毒。这名学生在被感染前后或出现症状时都未出现在学校及学生宿舍）。

Neither the student who has been diagnosed nor the other diagnosed patient attended the Chinese New Year Gala on 26 January at the Barbican or any Graduation ceremony taking place between 23 to 25 January. (这名被感染的学生及另一名患者确定并未出席1月23-25日举行的大学毕业典礼及1月26日在Barbican举行的约克华人春晚活动)。

Because of the above facts, we want to reassure all staff and students that the official advice from PHE remains that the risk to anyone on campus is low therefore the University is open and operating as normal. (基于以上事实，我们向全体学生及员工确认英国公共卫生部表示约克大学校园内的传染风险是相对较低的。因此，大学将保持正常运转)。

At this particular moment, we want to show you our full support and understanding of your concerns. If you need any support or advice we have the following:

- Coronavirus University helpline 01904 809571
- Immigration advice and support team
- Student Support Hub

Professor Charlie Jeffery
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

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