








## What's going on?

The coronavirus, also known as Covid-19 has been spreading at an increasing rate in the UK over the past few weeks. In response, the government has produced an action plan to ensure the NHS can help people who are worried they may be ill. Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has held meetings with political and health leaders from all over the UK to help organise the response. The government could close schools and stop public gatherings if there was a major outbreak. The National Health Service (NHS) has detailed plans to cope with outbreaks of disease and increases in demand on health services. People are being advised not to travel to countries where there has been an outbreak like China, South Korea and Italy. Those that have returned from those places have been quarantined or have been told to self-isolate. That means being kept away from other people or staying at home to reduce the chances of the virus spreading to other people.

### Question:

How important is it to be prepared?

Listen, think, share

-  Explain that we are going to talk about coronavirus. Briefly talk about what we already know. Watch the useful video (found in the link below) which explains a bit more about what the virus is and how it is spread. What did we learn from the video? Is there any information that surprises us?
-  Read through the information from the resource which talks about the government's plans to be prepared to help reduce the impact of the virus in the UK. Why do you think the government need to plan in this way? Do you think having a plan for different options is important? Why? Can you think of a time when you have a 'just in case' plan for certain situations? E.g. a fire drill.
-  Talk about the difference between facts and fear and why it's important not to panic. Explain that some things that have been written about the coronavirus have been written to shock, but these can cause a lot of worry for people, which is unlikely to help the situation. Do we think knowing more of the facts and having a plan in place will help us not to worry quite as much?
-  Look at the poster image and talk about what we can see. Explain that in some places, people are 'panic buying' meaning they are buying lots of food and drink supplies in case they run out. Do we think this is sensible? Talk about why we think this.
-  Tell the children that to help reduce the spread of coronavirus, many businesses and organisations are arranging some of their work and meetings to happen 'virtually'. Does anyone know what this means? Explain that it means they will happen online, through a video or conference call. Do we think this is a good idea? Talk about why and which jobs and meetings could work in this way and for which, people are needed to be there in 'real life'.

### Reflection

There are many things we can do to prepare for risks like the coronavirus. One of the most important, is staying calm! As long as we follow government advice, which may include things like avoiding certain places and washing our hands, we are helping to play our part in reducing the threat of coronavirus.

### Coronavirus news story

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-boris-johnson-to-reveal-government-plan-to-tackle-outbreak-of-covid-19-11948275>

### Useful Video – Coronavirus Questions and Answers

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51204456](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51204456)