

BVA BDRC statement on the coronavirus outbreak

BVA BDRC is committed to ensuring the continued operation of its business in the event of major business disruption or disaster. This includes our subsidiary companies, on whose web sites this notice will also appear.

The Company takes a proactive approach to identifying how the business can continue to function during and after an adverse incident (eg a pandemic) whilst maintaining information security and adhering to the policies and standards set for the business. This is contained in our Business Continuity Plan which is regularly reviewed and updated and sets out how the company will respond in a variety of scenarios.

The coronavirus outbreak

BVA BDRC is monitoring the situation carefully and an initial meeting has been held of the senior team responsible for managing such incidents, to identify current and future actions.

For now it is very much “business as usual” but we are working on plans that could be implemented if the situation changes and already we have taken a number of simple, precautionary steps.

We have confirmed that most BVA BDRC and Alligator staff are already able to work from home should this become necessary, and are taking action to provide remaining staff with appropriate technology to allow them also to work securely from home.

Contact details for all staff have been checked and updated and we have protocols for regular communication between senior management and their teams should home working become the norm for a period of time.

Two members of staff who were in northern Italy (but not the quarantined areas specifically) have self-isolated as a precaution and are working from home, and we have asked staff to let us know if they are planning to travel to an affected area.

Analysis is being done for the Perspective telephone centre to identify how interviewers might get to work in the event of issues with public transport. We are exploring the extent to which a core interviewing team could be equipped to work from home via a secure network that meets all our data security requirements and also whether telephone resources in other parts of the country might be utilised, should there be a particular issue in London.

In terms of our face to face interviewers we are planning to send fieldworkers a revised health and safety briefing sheet that will include Public Health England latest advice on how to reduce the risk of contamination. We are also taking practical steps such as increasing the number of mini pens we put in each pack so that respondents can dispose of them when they finish a self-completion interview, rather than sharing them.



Our qualitative recruitment company, Viewpoint, is screening respondents for recent travel to affected countries and more broadly we have online tools to enable us to conduct depths and groups remotely rather than face to face.

We have streaming services in our Holborn Focus viewing studios and for meetings and presentations we have online conferencing / webex facilities for clients who do not wish to travel.

Going forward

We will continue to review these plans as guidance changes. All actions will be in accordance with the data security agreements we have with clients – in the unlikely event that alternative actions are proposed we will discuss this with the clients concerned beforehand. Any significant changes to business as usual will also be shared with clients.

If you have any queries about the BVA BDRC business continuity planning please address these through your usual contacts.

Dr Cris Tarrant
Chief Executive
3rd March 2020