Dear Employer

This letter is the first of what will likely be many communications in relation to Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Shropshire. It is important to begin by stating our support for you and your business, we will do whatever we can to help you through what is undeniably a difficult time, particularly coming so soon after the floods that had such a large impact on many businesses across our county.

The government has announced that we are moving out of the contain phase and into delay, in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The UK Chief Medical Officers have now raised the risk to the UK from moderate to high.

As you may be aware, Shropshire has received its **third** [**case of COVID –19**](https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2020/03/coronavirus-cases-shropshire/). It is likely that we will get more cases but we want to reassure you that Shropshire Council is working with health colleagues to do everything we can to stop the virus spreading and ensure the people of Shropshire are protected.

As a Council, we have specialists trained to deal with issues like COVID-19 and plans are in place that have been built on years of knowledge and experience. That said, it goes without saying that this situation is unprecedented, but please know our teams mobilised many weeks ago as the threat emerged to ensure we respond to the Government’s requests, alongside our local needs.

We will be sharing information with you as it becomes available, but we ask that you familiarise yourself with existing resources as these will often be the source of updates. The government provides current COVID 19 updates for businesses around information on healthcare advice for employers and support for businesses. You can find this here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-employees-employers-and-businesses>

It is unquestionably a challenging time for everyone in the country, so we simply urge you to follow the guidance given and remain current, as the instruction is changing frequently to manage the situation.

You may have already heard of the new ‘Stay at Home’ guidance announced by Prime Minister on Thursday 12 March 2020. Please do follow these new guidelines here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Good hygiene is the best prevention and there are some simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by washing your hands regularly and thoroughly and if you cough, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. Do keep looking at the current NHS advice here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>Please also follow the updated travel guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>.

We have also added links on our own website to helpful sites and more will be added as they become available, you can find the main page here which has a link to the business section:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

We wish you well in the coming weeks and months. Our teams are equipped to work from anywhere and we are prepared to support residents and businesses to the best of our abilities throughout this crisis for the county.

Kind Regards

Cllr Peter Nutting