

## Assembly notes on the Coronavirus

Intro – The World Health Organisation has declared the coronavirus a global emergency.

Slide two – What is this picture about?

- It shows spikes on the outer surface of a coronavirus that resemble the points of a crown ("corona" in Latin).
- This new virus was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan and has now spread to a number of other countries.
- Travel restrictions have been imposed on many cities in China and people living there have been asked to wear face masks in public places.

Slide three – Discuss how the new virus compares to other epidemics.

- In one month (January 2020), the new coronavirus infected about 30,000 people and had a fatality rate (the number of deaths from it) of about 2%.
- This is a much higher total than recent viruses such as Sars, which infected about 8,000 people, and Mers, which infected about 2,500. But the fatality rate of both was much worse – about 10%.
- It is a much lower number than the flu virus which infects about 31 million people each year. But the flu's fatality rate is very low – about 0.1%.

Slide four – Some key facts about coronavirus.

Slide five – What is this graph about?

- These are numbers from the China National Health Commission and show how cases and deaths from the new coronavirus have risen in China.
- At the start of February 2020, China said that the daily number of new cases had started to drop, so maybe the worst is over.

Slide six – This video from the World Health Organisation is a brilliantly clear illustrated guide to the coronavirus, its origins, development, and how it spreads.

Slide seven – What can we do to stop the virus spreading?

- All the experts say that by far the most effective thing to do is to wash our hands often with soap and water, and to cover our nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.

Slide eight – Professor Julian Hiscox talked about how serious the coronavirus actually is, and said that we should think of it as more like a fast-spreading – but less deadly – epidemic, and more like flu.