



[U.K. Prime Minister Moved to the ICU for Coronavirus Treatment](#)

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson was moved to an intensive care unit (ICU) earlier this week after his coronavirus symptoms worsened. The Prime Minister was diagnosed with COVID-19 two weeks ago, and was taken to a London hospital last week. In his absence, Johnson appointed Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to deputize for him. The prime minister remains on oxygen in the ICU, but he is in stable condition, and his office released a statement saying his health was steadily improving. President Trump called Johnson a “very good friend” and said he was saddened to hear he had been moved to the ICU. The president also said he had facilitated a conversation between Johnson’s doctors and leading American medical companies to see if there was any assistance they could provide.

Prime Minister Johnson was first admitted to St. Thomas Hospital in London for routine tests after symptoms of the coronavirus persisted. However, he was moved to intensive care as a precaution when his symptoms worsened, in case he needed a ventilator. Currently, he is receiving oxygen treatment but has thus far not needed a ventilator. A spokesperson for the prime minister said his condition was improving and that he was comfortable in his current condition, and had responded well to treatment.

In the prime minister’s absence, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has been deputizing as head of the British government. Raab, in coordination with other cabinet ministers, is able to make decisions and continue running the government as usual. There is no formal succession line in British politics if the prime minister is incapacitated for a lengthy period of time, but the expectation is that Raab continues to lead the British government in Johnson’s absence. The United Kingdom remains in a state of lockdown due to the coronavirus, and a spokesperson for the government said they would be analyzing additional measures to mitigate the further spread of the virus.

The coronavirus has steadily worsened in recent weeks in the United Kingdom. A new model from the University of Washington’s School of Medicine projects over 66,000 people in the U.K. could die from the virus by early August. It also predicts that the United Kingdom will surpass Italy as the hardest hit European country. The most recent statistics show 7,097 deaths from the virus in the United Kingdom, and 60,700 confirmed cases. Wednesday was the worst day so far for deaths, with 887 people dying from the virus.