

6th March 2020 Update

Coronavirus - COVID-19 - Information for members of our school community including parents, carers and staff

We are now in receipt of daily updates from the Department of Education regarding the control of the Coronavirus. We want to reassure all parents that we are doing everything we can to prepare for, and prevent as far as possible, the virus in any of our schools. To help us to achieve this there are a number of things which you could do.

Please ensure children arrive at school with tissues. This may sound trivial, but it helps to ensure everyone is protected from germs. For younger children, they may still need to be shown how to blow their nose and to keep themselves 'clean.'

Please ensure children have washed their hands prior to leaving for school and school will ensure that children have washed their hands during day and prior to returning home.

Children and adults will continue to contract winter bugs with coughs and colds as normal. If you or your child are unwell, please stay at home until you are well enough to return.

We will do everything we can to ensure all schools are as hygienic and fit for purpose as we can but while we move through this period, we are trying to stay calm and measured. The media is hooked on this news item which is currently affecting a very small number of people. It is easy for children to start to feel anxious, not understanding the scale of the issue in the currently very unlikely event of them contracting the virus. Please reassure children, as we will. Their thoughts and fears can easily escalate from throw away comments we may make as an adult.

If you have symptoms or feel concerned, then please dial 111 and ask for advice. If the NHS think you need to be tested and it is confirmed, they will contact the head teacher at school who will in turn speak to Public Health England. They will then advise on whether further testing should take place or as a precautionary measure the school should close and a deep clean be conducted. At all times schools will be in touch with myself and the Central Team to coordinate additional staff/action as needed.

We hope to remain unaffected but if things spread more quickly or the situation changes, we will be in touch through the usual channels of the school website, email and letter.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Massey

Please find below the information from last week's update, which we would value your support in reading and following:

Advice for those who have travelled back to the UK from specific areas affected by COVID-19:

The Chief Medical Advisor for England, Chris Whitty updated advice for travellers returning to the UK from specific areas affected by COVID-19.

If you have returned from the following specific areas since 19th February, you should call NHS 111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you do not have symptoms:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy (see link to maps below)
- Special care zones in South Korea
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days)

If you have returned from the following areas since 19 February and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111:

- Northern Italy - defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

If you have a cough, or fever or shortness of breath and have visited any of the following areas in the last 14 days, stay indoors and call NHS 111 informing them of your recent travel:

- China, apart from Hubei province (see link to maps below)
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea, apart from special care zones (see link to maps below)
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

The following link will take you to maps specified above: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

Practical ways to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin
- People who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- Pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Thank you in advance for supporting us by following the latest advice and guidance. For further information, please see the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).

In the meantime, if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111 - do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.