

Dear Parents/ Carers

Please find below some further information and advice regarding Coronavirus and the plans the school has in place to prevent the spread of the virus and schools plans in the event of the following circumstances: Suspected case, confirmed case and in the event of a closure.

What to know about the virus

The incubation period for this strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) is between 2 to 14 days. That means if a person is well 14 days after contact with someone with a confirmed case, they haven't been infected.

What are the symptoms?

They include:

Cough

Difficulty in breathing

Fever

The virus can cause more severe symptoms in those with weakened immune systems. However, there's no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups.

How does it spread?

The virus is most likely to spread when someone has close contact (i.e. within 2 metres or less) with an infected person.

When an infected person coughs or sneezes, they produce droplets that contain the virus. These droplets are likely to be the most important means of transmission, as:

Droplets can be directly transferred into the mouths or noses of people who have close contact

Someone may become infected by touching a surface or object (e.g. a door knob) that's been contaminated with the droplets and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes

There's currently no good evidence that people who don't have symptoms are infectious to others.

Plans to Prevent the spread at school

We will ensure that every one in school will:

Wash their hands often, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, particularly:

- Before leaving home
- On arrival at school
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before preparing food
- Before eating any food, including snacks
- Before leaving school

If soap and water aren't available, we will provide an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Children and staff should:

Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands

Cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
If they feel unwell, stay at home
If they're worried about their symptoms or those of a child, call
NHS 111 and don't go directly to their GP or other healthcare
environments

Pupils or staff who have just come back from abroad

If they've been in a **category 1** country or area in the past 14 days

This includes:

Wuhan city and Hubei province, China

Iran*

Daegu or Cheongdo, South Korea*

Any Italian town under containment measures*

*Only if they've returned on or after 19 February 2020.

They should contact NHS 111 for advice, and:

Self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the country or area (see the home isolation [advice sheet](#))

If they become unwell, call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if they require emergency medical attention)

If they've been in a **category 2** country or area in the past 14 days

This includes:

Cambodia

China (other than Wuhan city or Hubei province)

Hong Kong

Italy: north* (see the map [here](#))

Japan

Laos

Macau

Malaysia

Myanmar

Singapore

South Korea (other than Daegu or Cheongdo)

Taiwan

Thailand

Vietnam

*Only if they've returned on or after 19 February 2020.

If they're well, they don't need to avoid contact with other people and can continue to attend school or work.

If they become unwell, they should:

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people (see the home isolation advice sheet)

Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if they require emergency medical attention)

If they've been anywhere else

At present the advice is to that there is no need to advise them to avoid normal activities or school, unless they've had contact with a confirmed case.

Anyone who has had close contact with a confirmed case should contact NHS 111 for further advice.

If they have family members who've been abroad

If they have family members who've travelled to a category 2 country or area and who are well, they don't need to:

Take any precautions, or

Make any changes to their own activities

If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in our school, current advice states that, there are no restrictions or special control measures required while test results are pending.

We don't need to close our school or send pupils or staff home.

However, we will ensure that:

All surfaces that the suspected case has come into contact with, will be cleaned using disposable cloths and household detergents, including:

All surfaces and objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids

All potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles and telephones

Waste from the suspected case, such as used tissues, is kept in a double-wrapped and tied bin bag, which should be placed in a safe place and marked for storage (if the results are negative, this can then be put in the normal waste)

If the case is confirmed

We will contact our [local health protection team](#) to:

Discuss the case

Identify people who have been in contact with the infected individual

Advise on any actions and precautions that should be taken

Undertake a risk assessment of our school (this will help decide whether to close our school, which won't be necessary in most cases)

In the event of a closure

We don't envisage that we will need to close the school, however, in the event of school having to close a list of learning activities that your child should complete at home, relevant to their year group, will be sent out via parentmail.

As a school, we use a company for deep cleaning and we will also ensure that the school receives a deep clean, in addition to its usual daily clean, when necessary.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Warburton