

26th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus/ COVID- 19 Prevention

As you may be aware the Department of Public Health has issued the following advice regarding coronavirus.

The UK Chief Medical Officers are advising anyone who has travelled to the UK from the mainland in the below specified areas, who may be experiencing a fever, cough or shortness of breath to stay indoors and call 111, even if the symptoms are mild.

The specified areas are:

- China (other than Hubei).
- Hong Kong.
- Japan.
- Macau.
- Malaysia.
- Singapore.
- South Korea.
- Taiwan.
- Thailand.

If you have returned from the below areas since February 19, 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 as designated by the Government of Italy.
- Special care zones in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days).

The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 and 14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, it is unlikely that they have been infected.

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – very few cases have been reported in children.

If your child develops any of the above symptoms they should they should stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as they would with other flu viruses. If you suspect your child has any symptoms please **call NHS**

111 immediately for them to be assessed by an appropriate specialist as quickly as possible. Your child should **stay at home** and not attend school. They **should not go directly to the GP** or healthcare environment but await advice from NHS 111.

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

- Wash your hands often – With soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser 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.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home

Please be assured that the risk is low and there remains no cause for concern at school. We will of course continue to update our advice, following guidance issued by the Government. We will continue to keep the school clean to prevent the spread of any virus.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Further advice can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Watts
Principal