

26 February 2020

Dear Headteacher

Please find the latest advice sent to schools and educational settings in relation to COVID – 19. There have been a number of enquiries in relation to travel to and from the areas in lockdown particularly in Northern Italy.

Re: COVID – 19 Advice for schools and educational settings

You may be aware that advice for travellers from affected areas has recently changed and it has come to our attention that this may affect children and staff returning from school trips. Please be aware that this is a fast-evolving situation and we will continue to share any new advice at the earliest opportunity.

As of 25 February, advice for returning travellers is as follows:

1) If you have returned from the following areas since 19 February, call NHS111 to inform them of your recent travel, 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
- Daegu or Cheongdo, Republic of Korea)
- Hubei province, China (returned in the past 14 days)

\* Bertinico • Casalpusterlengo • Castelgerundo • Castiglione D'Adda • Codogno • Fombio • Maleo • San Fiorano • Somaglia • Terranova dei Passerini: • Vo

2) If you have returned from the following areas since February 19th and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS111. You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms.

- Northern Italy (see [map](#))
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

3) If you have returned to the UK from any of the following areas in the last 14 days and develop symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, you should immediately stay indoors and avoid contact with other people, call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the country.

- Other parts of China outside Hubei province
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

This list may change as new outbreaks arise so for updated list and implications go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

Further guidance for educational settings has been published at the following links and will be updated as soon as possible with the above advice and any further changes: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Information for the public: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

We would also like to remind you of the following:

What is self-isolation?

Self-isolating is a precaution to provide people with health advice about any symptoms in case they become unwell. These people are being advised to "self-isolate" which means they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people as a precaution. It does not mean they are ill and people who have had contact with these individuals do not need to take action.

Those who have been told to 'self-isolate' are being asked to avoid other people and stay at home and not go to work or school. During this time, they will be supported by Public Health England, who are monitoring them and will undertake further testing if they show any symptoms of the virus, and provide any further care needed.

In answer to the question - Should I send my child to school?

Yes. The safety, welfare and wellbeing of all in our school community is our primary concern and a constant dialogue has, and will continue, to take place with the relevant authorities to ensure that the school acts in accordance with guidance. We are working in collaboration with, and being guided by, the Local Authority and Public Health England to ensure that we are acting consistently with the right medical advice.

The Local Authority has confirmed to us that Public Health England and the office of the Chief Medical Officer are clear in their advice that schools do not need to close. Our school management team and Governing Body have decided to keep our school open. I will continue to keep you updated with any advice that is passed to us.

At this present time, there is low risk for anyone attending our school. On advice from the Chief Medical Officer, the risk has been declared as "moderate" - a level which allows government to plan for all eventualities but that ultimately, that the risk to individuals remains "low".

Please contact the school if you are thinking about keeping your child at home.

Where do I get accurate information from?

Please also be aware that media speculation is rife about Coronavirus and not everything you read in the newspapers and online is accurate.

The release of trusted and accurate information will always be released initially by the Chief Medical Officer. Further guidance will then be issued by Public Health England, the Department for Health and Social Care or the NHS. The Local Authority will also support those messages.

You can find the latest information and advice from Public Health England at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Everyone is being reminded to follow Public Health England advice:

Like with other illnesses, coronavirus infection usually occurs through close contact with a person with novel coronavirus via cough and sneezes or hand contact.

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands with soap and water
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

We would also like to remind you of the previous advice in regard to general hygiene and have provided the link to the poster in regard to this and would ask that you display it please:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/866771/Coronavirus\\_advice\\_for\\_education\\_settings\\_poster.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866771/Coronavirus_advice_for_education_settings_poster.pdf)

Yours sincerely



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