



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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11 March 2020

Public Health England Updated Advice to Schools: Coronavirus

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to update you with the latest information from Public Health England with regard to the outbreak of novel coronavirus and the subsequent confirmed cases in Europe and also to inform you about the contingency planning and mitigation the school is undertaking in response.

We take our responsibility for the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously and so we would like to share with you the updated information from Public Health England (follow link for [guidance](#)) which was issued to schools on 10 March. The updated advice includes information and advice for those who have recently returned from overseas travel.

Since our return to school after half term all staff and students have received guidance on how to minimize the risk of infection through sensible hygiene measures and self-isolation where this is advised by Public Health England. Details of these messages are set out below and in detail on the linked government web pages. The school has arranged for enhanced and more frequent cleaning of high use surfaces such as door handles. Posters and guidance on correct hand-washing have been prominently displayed throughout the school and students' attention regularly drawn to the advice. Our contingency plans have been updated in line with Public Health England and government advice. At present the examination boards and the Joint Council for Qualifications are awaiting government advice on what to do if school closures are required. In the meantime, the school's contingency planning will prioritize examination classes with Year 13 and Year 11 in first order of priority followed by Years 10 and 12.

Parents and carers who believe that their child is particularly vulnerable in the context of the Covid-19 virus should contact the school on 01332 843203 or gcawley@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk to inform Mrs Cawley (Senior First Aider) who will update the medical information we hold on our student records.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Nicoll, Deputy Head Teacher. If you have reason to believe that you or your child is directly affected by the issues covered in this letter please inform the school using (01332) 843200 or rnicol@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Robert Nicoll
Deputy Head Teacher

James McNamara
Head Teacher

Advice from Public Health England:

Preventing spread of infection

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

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. See Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
- 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
- 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
- see further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).

If you or your children have returned from a category 1 country or area in past 14 days

This includes:

- Wuhan city and Hubei province, China
- Iran*
- Daegu or Cheongdo, South Korea*
- **Anywhere in Italy on or after 9 March**

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

Contact NHS 111 for advice, and:

- Self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the country or area (see the [home isolation advice sheet](#) for help with this)
- If you become unwell, call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention) – see below for the symptoms to look out for

If you or your children have returned from a category 2 country or area in last 14 days

This includes:

- Cambodia
- China (other than Wuhan city or Hubei province)

- Hong Kong
- **Italy (outside [specific areas in northern Italy](#)) before 9 March* (see the map [here](#))**
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Singapore
- South Korea (other than Daegu or Cheongdo)
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

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

If you or your children are well:

- You don't need to avoid contact with other people
- Your other family members don't need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities

If you become unwell (see below for a list of symptoms):

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses (see the [home isolation advice sheet](#) for help with this).
- Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention).

Symptoms to look out for

If you've returned from any of the category 1 or 2 areas or countries, look out for the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)

According to other [official guidance](#), while you wait for further advice:

- Avoid contact with others
- Stay at home – don't go to work or school
- Don't travel while sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing, throwing tissues in the bin
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available)