



Monday 16th March, 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had messages from concerned parents as to what action we will take as suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 appear in schools. The information below is correct as of 16th March 2020 and stands as our advice to parents.

We are continuing to follow government guidance regarding Coronavirus and will continue to share relevant information with parents and carers.

We will send out messages through Parentmail at the end of each school day to inform parents about opening or closing. As we are sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. Our first priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in school.

If staff or pupil numbers dwindle, schools will alter their curriculum to reflect their circumstance. It may be that too many pupils are absent to progress through the curriculum as planned and schools will engage in activities that recap previous learning or broaden the curriculum. We intend to keep schools open for as long as possible to offer the opportunity for working parents to continue to generate income in these challenging times. We also want to offer support to healthcare professionals who we know are already experiencing significant challenge.

It has been decided to cancel Parents' Evenings and any other school events where we are inviting the community into school. This will help limit the spread of the virus and we will rearrange any events as soon as practicable.

It is likely that a high percentage of the population will contract the virus and will make a normal recovery. This is expected by the government and we have clear steps to follow and lots of support from the Department for Health when this happens. **The advice from the Department for Health for schools in this situation is copied below:**

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home
- clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products
- supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues





- posters and lesson plans on general hand hygiene can be found on the [eBug website](#)
- unless you have been directly advised to close by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team, we recommend all education settings remain open

There is nothing in the guidance that suggests we should notify the wider school community to help stop the spread of the virus but we are aware that the situation is developing rapidly. We also know that if there is a possibility of an infected pupil passing COVID-19 on to an 'at risk' person, then this is something we should avoid. For this reason, we are undertaking a risk assessment for 'at risk' pupils, staff and family members to limit the chance of them contracting the virus.

As it stands, there are no confirmed cases within our school community.

Already in school we have raised the profile of good hygiene patterns through assemblies, lessons and posters and have ensured that our cleaning regimes and standards are good.

This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are following official advice from the government and the NHS. This advice is being added to on a daily basis and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published.

Recommendations to families based on Government advice

We have published a list of recommendations based on advice from the NHS and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention to help families manage the spread of infection and care for 'at risk' people.

- It is important to identify, in your range of contact, who is classed as vulnerable and help avoid them contracting COVID-19. At risk people (taken from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention) are;
 - Older adults
 - People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Lung disease
- Once identified, consider supporting 'at risk' people to 'socially distance' to reduce the possibility of contracting the virus. The relevant advice from the NHS is;
 - Try to keep at least 2 metres (3 steps) from 'at risk' people (older people or those with long-term health conditions)
 - Friends and family and delivery services could deliver things like food shopping and medicines – but avoid contact with them
 - Regularly wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
 - Encourage 'at risk' people to not leave the house, for example to go for a walk, to school or public places

At a strategic level we are planning how we operate in these difficult circumstances and what we will do if widespread school closures happen, to ensure we can support families that need





childcare, vulnerable pupils and also continue education in the best form we can. If school does not have your most up to date contact details, please provide them to us immediately to ensure we can message families in an efficient and timely manner.

Should you wish to discuss your concerns further, please do not hesitate to phone or call in at the office.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matt Freeston
Chief Executive Officer

LEARNERS' Trust

www.learnerstrust.org

Sources of information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

