



17th March 2020

Coronavirus – COVID 19 Update

Dear Parents/Carers

As things are changing on a daily basis we will try and give you an update each day on what is happening in school.

We have an obligation to maintain the privacy of both students and staff, we absolutely cannot talk to parents about individual cases of staff or children so we would really appreciate it if you would not compromise our position.

With this in mind it is our intention to give you general information about our school community. Today we have 14 staff absent and 40 students absent. We are unaware of anyone having a confirmed case of COVID-19. Some people are absent with illnesses that are totally unrelated to the symptoms of COVID-19, some people have symptoms of a cough or temperature but all are mild and some people are self-isolating because they have a family member displaying symptoms or because they are in a vulnerable group.

As it stands this is the current information from the Government in addition to what we have released to you before:

Main messages

- *if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started.*
- *if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill*
- *it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community*
- *for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period.*
- *if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk/111) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999*

Still we have no specific information from the Government regarding vulnerable children but the following information was released yesterday:

<https://tinyurl.com/t6ssvqa>

This document relates to vulnerable adults but this is the advice:

We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.

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This group includes those who are:

- *aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)*
- *under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):*
 - *chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as [asthma](#), [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\)](#), emphysema or [bronchitis](#)*
 - *chronic heart disease, such as [heart failure](#)*
 - *[chronic kidney disease](#)*
 - *chronic liver disease, such as [hepatitis](#)*
 - *chronic neurological conditions, such as [Parkinson's disease](#), [motor neurone disease](#), [multiple sclerosis \(MS\)](#), a learning disability or cerebral palsy*
 - *[diabetes](#)*
 - *problems with your spleen – for example, [sickle cell](#) disease or if you have had your spleen removed*
 - *a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as [HIV and AIDS](#), or medicines such as [steroid tablets](#) or [chemotherapy](#)*
 - *being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)*
- *those who are pregnant*

Note: there are some clinical conditions which put people at even higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. If you are in this category, next week the NHS in England will directly contact you with advice the more stringent measures you should take in order to keep yourself and others safe. For now, you should rigorously follow the social distancing advice in full, outlined below.

People falling into this group are those who may be at particular risk due to complex health problems such as:

- *people who have received an organ transplant and remain on ongoing immunosuppression medication*
- *people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radiotherapy*
- *people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment*
- *people with severe chest conditions such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma (requiring hospital admissions or courses of steroid tablets)*
- *people with severe diseases of body systems, such as severe kidney disease (dialysis)*

As previously mentioned, the Local Authority has asked us to request that you contact your child's doctor, specialist or NHS 111 to seek direct advice for your child's specific condition. We know that this can be difficult, however some families have managed to receive a telephone consultation with their Specialist, advising them on their individual situation and any impact on their medication.

We appreciate this is a very worrying time for everyone, please be reassured that we will let you know immediately should we have any concerns regarding your child in school and should our staffing ratios drop below what we feel is safe. We are also giving extra care and time to our cleaning regimes to try our best to control infection.

With our very best wishes

Melsa and Mel