

February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Coronavirus concerns

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You're likely aware of the outbreak of novel coronavirus in China and the subsequent confirmed cases in the UK. At King Ethelbert School, we take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, so we're sharing [guidance](#) from Public Health England on steps you should be taking. Please be assured that there is currently no cause for concern at the school and we'll continue to ensure we're keeping the school clean to prevent the spread of any virus.

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- › 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
- › Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- › Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- › If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- › 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
- › If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

If you or your children have returned from anywhere in Hubei province in past 14 days

Contact NHS 111 for advice, and:

- › Self-isolate for 14 days after leaving Hubei (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 specified area in last 14 days

The specified areas are:

- Mainland China
- Hong Kong
- Macao
- Cambodia
- Iran
- Northern Italy
- Japan
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

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)

Update: You maybe aware that there has been further guidance from PHE (Public Health England) regarding travel from Northern Italy.

We would urge anyone who has been to the regions in question, (since the 19 February), to inform us immediately and to then follow the advice of PHE.

Essentially they have divided Northern Italy into 2 categories

- Category 1- 14 day quarantine on return to England regardless of any symptoms
- Category 2 – 14 day quarantine on return to England only if you show flu like symptoms

Links below give full outline of areas included in both categories

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/868103/Map_showing_specified_areas_of_Italy_250220.pdf#page=1

Symptoms to look out for

If you've returned from the specified areas or Hubei, 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)

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Bennett or Jo Setterfield at the school.

Yours faithfully



Mrs V Willis
Head of School