

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – update, advice and guidance

26 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find below information received from the borough which we have been asked to circulate.

From **Sir Thomas Abney Primary School**

Coronavirus COVID-19, Update, advice & guidance

Based on the World Health Organization's declaration that the Coronavirus outbreak is a public health emergency of international concern, the UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the public from low to moderate. Whilst this permits the government to plan for all eventualities, the risk to individuals remains low.

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus. Based on current information, there is currently no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school/setting as normal.

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.

Advice for returning travellers

As of 26 February 2020, advice for returning travellers is set out below. If you fall into any of these scenarios, we ask that you contact the school office to let them know as soon as possible.

1. If you have returned from the following (category 1) areas **since February 19**, call NHS111 to inform them of your recent travel, stay indoors and avoid contact with other people **even if you do not have symptoms (cough, fever or shortness of breath)**:
 - Iran
 - Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy (currently *Bertonico, Casalpusterlengo, Castelgerundo, Castiglione D'Adda, Codogno, Fombio, Maleo, San Fiorano, Somaglia, Terranova dei Passerini and Vo*)
 - Daegu or Cheongdo, Republic of Korea)
 - Hubei province, China (returned in the past 14 days)
2. If you have returned from the following (category 2) areas since **19 February 2020** 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 (cough, fever or shortness of breath)**.
 - Northern Italy – please refer to this map https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/868103/Map_showing_specified_areas_of_Italy_250220.pdf

- 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

Further Advice & Guidance

Please note that this information is regularly updated and you should, therefore, refer back to it for any changes

- **Information for the public** – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>
- **Guidance for educational settings** – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

If there is any change in circumstances specifically affecting the local area or the school, this will be posted on the school website

<http://sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk/news/news-archive/> and noted on the Council's education web page www.learningtrust.co.uk

What action you should take

A UK-wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Please help to support the campaign which promotes basic hygiene practices, such as regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue, to stem the spread of viruses.

Best advice to washing your hands can be found here from the NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>