



Thriftwood

School and College

website: www.thriftwoodschoo.com

Information regarding the Corona Virus: Covid-19, as of 24.02.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter aims to share with you the latest guidance for schools and colleges regarding the Corona Virus, **Covid-19**. Revised Department for Education information has been issued today and these are the key points to note:-

1. The risk level for a potential outbreak in the UK has been raised from Mild to Moderate. This means that greater vigilance will be taken by authorities to undertake further screening of people entering the UK and that the potential for the virus to spread is raised. The UK Health Organisation remains confident that our procedures and preparedness for minimising the spread of the disease are highly developed.
2. People travelling from different parts of the world to Britain will go about their normal routines, including employment until they show any signs of illness.
3. All those involved in schools/colleges, will continue to attend and work as normal until there are signs of illness.
4. If an individual is deemed to be unwell or develops symptoms of the virus, the emergency number 111 will be called and the medical agencies will determine the next course of action.

Travelling from Abroad

Some students and staff have travelled abroad over the half term holiday and on their return, the guidance mentioned above will be followed. Those who have travelled to and from the Far East will need to be aware of the additional risks of becoming unwell within 14 days of their return and should follow the guidance here:

- they should stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as they would with other flu viruses
- they (or a family member, colleague or member of staff) should call NHS 111 immediately for them to be assessed by an appropriate specialist, as quickly as possible
- they should stay at home and should not attend work or education
- they should not go directly to their GP or other healthcare environment
- if they require emergency medical attention, call 999 and tell the call handler or ambulance control that the person has a history of recent travel to risk areas for COVID-19

The risks from travelling back to the UK from other countries including Europe, are at this point lower, but the same precautions should be taken, if an individual is taken ill.

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Guidance from Government agencies remains at a very pragmatic level and schools and colleges are advised to engage students and staff in effective practices to make sure the spread of all infections are kept to a minimum as follows:-

- To follow good 'hand hygiene' guidance – please try to encourage your child to develop the habit of washing their hands thoroughly after using the toilet and to use hand sanitisers provided in school/college
- To follow good 'respiratory hygiene' – use a tissue to sneeze into and then dispose of it in a bin.
- If your child is unwell with a cold or flu like symptoms please do not send them in to School/College, it will enable us to manage this situation more effectively.
- Staff will be advised to do the same which may impact on the education we are able to provide.

The situation may change in the days and weeks ahead, but we hope this helps to allay any concerns you may have about how this situation is being managed in the education sector at this present time. We will advise you of any amendments to this guidance.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy return to this new half term.

All good wishes

Georgina Pryke and Elizabeth Smart
Headteachers
Thriftwood School and College