

26 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We understand you may be worried about the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) particularly following the recent half-term break. Although there is widespread speculation, it is important you understand that social media **IS NOT** a reliable news source. I am writing to reassure you that the Elliot Foundation and your school are monitoring and responding to the latest official government guidance as it develops.

The latest DfE and Public Health England guidance advises that people can continue to go to work, school and other public places **unless** :

- They have been to the Hubei province of China in the last 14 days
- They have been to Iran, the lockdown areas of northern Italy or the “special care zones in South Korea since 19 February
- They are in close contact with someone with confirmed Coronavirus

In any of the cases above, even if they are completely without symptoms, people should stay away from public areas for 14 days.

In addition, people who have symptoms of a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath, who have also been to other parts of northern Italy, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos or Myanmar since 19 February should stay away from public places and call NHS 111. **If you are in any doubt about the latest advice, call NHS 111.**

Inevitably, over the coming days there are likely to be members of your school community from staff, pupils and parents, who are, as a result of this guidance and as a precautionary measure, staying at home and self isolating. This is a proportionate response and we are not, at this stage, anticipating the need for closing schools.

Alongside the precautions above, everyone is encouraged to ensure regular handwashing with soap and water and to use alcohol sanitizer if handwashing facilities are not available, and to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Parents may well see posters around the school or hear their children talking about this advice.

We will continue to monitor the situation and respond to advice from Public Health England as it develops.

Yours sincerely

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