

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Information for Schools/Educational Settings

There is currently an outbreak of a novel coronavirus with the focus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.

On 31 January 2020 the UK Chief Medical Officers raised the risk to the public from low to moderate. This permits the government to plan for all eventualities. The risk to individuals in the UK has not changed at this stage.

Situation in the UK

As of 27 February 2020, a total of 7,690 people have been tested with 7,675 negative results and 15 positive cases. If more cases are confirmed in the UK, it will be announced as soon as possible by the Chief Medical Officer of the affected country.

The majority of cases report mild illness and symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, chest tightness or shortness of breath.

Public Health England advise any students or visitors to the school who are unwell AND have visited Wuhan City or Hubei Province, China in the last 14 days, to seek medical advice from NHS 111 or by phoning their GP for advice, detailing their travel history.

Students and staff who have returned from Wuhan City or Hubei Province in the last 14 days are advised to:

- *stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses*
- *call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the city*

Please request they follow this advice even if they do not have symptoms.

We are asking people to take simple, common-sense steps to avoid close contact with other people as much as possible, like they would with other flu viruses.

This means remaining at home for 14 days after arriving from Wuhan and not going to work, school or public areas.

Where possible, you should avoid having visitors to your home, but it's ok for friends, family or delivery drivers to drop off food.

Students and staff who have returned from elsewhere in mainland China (including Taiwan, but not Macao or Hong Kong) in the last 14 days do not need to self-isolate if they do not have symptoms; but if they become unwell during the 14 days after leaving China they are advised to self-isolate and call NHS 111 or their GP for advice, detailing their travel history.

Public Health England would encourage you to remind all staff and students of the importance of good hygiene practice. Coughing and sneezing should be into tissues that are promptly disposed of in bins. Hands should be washed with soap and water or using an alcohol hand rub, even if hands are visibly clean.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are now advising against ALL travel to Hubei Province, and against all but essential travel to mainland China (not including Hong Kong and Macao). Anyone travelling to China should remain vigilant and check the latest travel advice on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Here are links to current Public Health England Q&As:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>