

16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

We thought that you would appreciate us sharing the most up-to date information with you that we have from the Government. We appreciate these are worrying times for everyone, but we felt that this information would be valuable.

As we know the situation can change rapidly so we will share the information as soon as we receive it.

Please rest assured that we are following all advice that is being shared by the Public Health England and the Government.

How COVID-19 is spread

From what we know about other coronaviruses, spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person.

Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes (termed respiratory secretions) containing the virus are most likely to be the most important means of transmission.

There are 2 routes by which people could become infected:

- secretions can be directly transferred into the mouths or noses of people who are nearby (within 2 metres) or could be inhaled into the lungs
- it is also possible that someone may become infected by touching a surface or object that has been contaminated with respiratory secretions and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes (such as touching a door knob or shaking hands then touching own face).


'There is currently no good evidence that people who do not have symptoms are infectious to others.' (Government advice 12th March 2020)

Preventing the spread of infection

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#)

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- Everyone should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home/ school
 - on arrival at home/ school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
 - avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
 - avoid close contact with people who are unwell
 - clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

This will help to protect others in your community while you are infectious.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home. They will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms.

Number of cases

As of 9am on 15 March 2020, 40,279 people have been tested in the UK, of which 38,907 were confirmed negative and 1,372 were confirmed as positive. 35 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 have died.

Communication

Could we please make sure that all parents have access to the school website, App and Class Dojo's as these will be our main routes of communication. Please make sure that your telephone numbers are up to date.

- See further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).
- The website below keeps you up to date with the Government response.
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Yours faithfully

Michelle Lee
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