



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

28th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Advice regarding the coronavirus

I am writing to update you about the situation regarding Novel coronavirus (COVID-19). You will be aware that there has been increased coverage in the media at the moment about this issue. In this context, you may find the following information helpful:

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China. Based on current evidence, novel coronavirus (COVID-19) presents with flu-like symptoms including a fever, a cough or difficulty breathing.

As of 25th February, 13 people had tested positive for the coronavirus in the UK. The UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the UK from low to moderate. This permits the government to plan for all eventualities however, the risk to individuals remains low.

At Mulberry UTC, we are continuously monitoring the situation and taking advice from the Department for Education in relation to this issue. At present, the government has clearly stated that schools should remain open and continue as normal.

More generally, advice from Public Health England is as follows:

Based on the scientific advice of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), the UK Chief Medical Officers are advising anyone who has travelled to the UK from these countries in the last 14 days and develops symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, to stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild.

- mainland China
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong, Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

*If you have returned from these specific areas since 19th February, you should call NHS 111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people **even if you do not have symptoms:***

- Iran
- specific lockdown areas in northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy (Codogno, Castiglione d'Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgerundo and San Fiorano or Vo' Euganeo)
- 'Daego and Cheongdo in South Korea
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days)

*If you have returned from these areas since 19th February and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111. **You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms.***

- northern Italy (anywhere north of Pisa, Florence and Rimini)
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

We ask that all parents whose families travelled over the half term to consider this advice closely. If you or your children have travelled to any of these places and need to stay indoors following advice, please contact the school. We will authorise this absence but we do need to be aware if you have recently returned from any of the affected countries.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent
Principal