

11th March 2020

Dear Families,

As you may be aware a case of COVID-19 (also known as coronavirus) has been confirmed in Tameside. Clearly this is a concerning time for residents and parents but I would like to reassure you that the risk to the individuals remains low. At this stage there is no known link to this confirmed case and our school community.

Please be assured that Public Health England (PHE) have been contacting those who have been in close contact with the Tameside resident and will advise any individuals or workplaces on any action required. Anyone who is not contacted by PHE does therefore not need to take any action at this time other than following the good general hygiene advice at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

We are working closely with the local authority and PHE and receiving regular updated guidance.

PHE have assessed the risk and confirmed that there is currently no information to suggest that there is any increased health risk to any of boroughs school pupils or staff and no public health reason for any schools to close or for staff/pupils not to attend. We will of course keep you updated of any changes to the situation or new guidance and advice.

Of those who catch coronavirus, the great majority will have a mild-to-moderate illness – similar to flu. However, we do need to protect ourselves and our community – particularly older people and those with pre-existing health conditions. A simple and effective way to protect yourself and others from coronavirus is by making sure you wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If you are unwell make sure you catch your coughs and sneezes in a tissue, throw the tissue away, and then wash your hands.

For those that think they might have coronavirus, have been to a country or area with a high risk of coronavirus, or been in close contact with someone with coronavirus, advice is to please use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19. If they need to speak to someone call NHS 111 – please don't go to your doctor, pharmacist or hospital as you could pass the infection to others.

You will also find plenty of advice and guidance online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

We are continuing to monitor the situation carefully and, at the moment, there are no known cases of any learner or family member who has been diagnosed with the Coronavirus. Clearly if this changes, we will take the appropriate advice and necessary action and keep all of our families fully informed.

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In the meantime, please be assured that we are following the guidance issued by Public Health England in school, and we have introduced additional cleaning measures and are ensuring that anti-bacterial soap is available in all appropriate areas. Anti-bacterial hand sanitiser is also available in areas such as computer rooms and other common areas, although in line with the national shortage, we are currently experiencing difficulties in sourcing further supplies, but we remain in regular contact with suppliers to try and resolve this, but handwashing facilities remain available. Information and guidance displays have been placed around school to remind staff and learners of the need to be extra vigilant with regard to this advice.

Clearly we would also ask that families keep us informed if there are any circumstances that we need to be aware of relating to their child or themselves so we can take the appropriate advice and action as required.

Yours faithfully

Andrea Jones
Headteacher