

4 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

There are no cases of Corona virus at Norwood School. However, we must stay alert to the possibility that this may change given the rapidly changing environment around us. In this context, the specific advice to schools provided by the government is both reassuring and timely. Firstly, the advice reiterates the fact that face masks for the general public, students, or staff are not recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments.

Secondly, there is very full advice on how to use basic good hygiene practices to keep the risk of infection as low as possible. This is reproduced for you below, and will be discussed in form time with students and reinforced through posters around the school.

Basic good hygiene practices include:

- 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](#)
- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - ✓ before leaving home
 - ✓ on arrival at school
 - ✓ after using the toilet
 - ✓ after breaks and sporting activities
 - ✓ before food preparation
 - ✓ before eating any food, including snacks
 - ✓ before leaving school
- 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

The third element of the advice refers to what you should do if you or your child becomes unwell and believe there may have been exposure to the Corona virus, either through travel to a specified country or area or through contact with a confirmed case. In these circumstances, you should call NHS 111. You should not go to your GP, pharmacy or other care centre and NHS 111 will advise on whether or not testing is necessary and if it is how it will happen. There are no restrictions or special control measures required in relation to their friends, family or their school community.

The document also contains advice about what to do should there be a confirmed case of the virus in school as well as about what to do if you or your children have come into contact with a confirmed case. To be defined as a 'contact' of someone with the virus, you would need to have been either living with the person, or in a close friendship group, or have had close face to face contact (within a radius of two metres) for over 15 minutes. Contacts are very unlikely to have spread the infection to others, however they should self-isolate at home for 14 days from the last time they had contact with the confirmed case. They will be actively followed up by the Health Protection Team, but only tested if they become unwell.

Family and friends who have not had close contact with a confirmed case (as described above) do not need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities and should carry on as normal, attending childcare or educational settings or work, unless they become unwell.

I hope you find this summary of the new advice helpful. Should you wish to read the full advice you can do so at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19> Please let us know in the usual way (by phoning the attendance line) if you believe your child/children may have been in contact with a confirmed case of the virus and that you will therefore be keeping them at home for the 14 day period of self-isolation.

We will continue to keep you updated with any new advice as it emerges as well as with any changes to our own situation here at Norwood.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Webster
Headteacher