



13 March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

**Coronavirus update**

Following the most recent briefing yesterday the UK government has made it clear that they are attempting to delay the spread of coronavirus and reduce the epidemic's peak (when the number of cases is highest). The most recent update can be found here: [Coronavirus: What is the 'delay' stage of the UK's plans?](#)

They have made it clear that at this stage they are not directing schools to close but I wanted to update you on some of the concerns and questions you might have. As a school we work with all the advice and guidance we are provided with from health professionals and other relevant bodies and are doing our best to respond to any new information when it is presented.

All the advice can be found on the following site [Latest information on Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Should this situation change, and the school be directed to close, we will be fully prepared to support our students so that they can continue to learn and make progress during a period of closure. If we are directed to close I will be in touch with you again with full details of the provision and support that will be available to students.

Please be assured that the well being of all students, staff and the wider community is paramount to us and should you have any concerns that have not been addressed in this letter or through the relevant links then please do not hesitate to contact us.

I will update you on any changes as they impact the school and I thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

**Ann Webb**  
**Headteacher**



### **What are the symptoms I should be concerned about?**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection

### **What do I do if my child or a family member is exhibiting any symptoms?**

The advice is clear (see link [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Self-isolation advice](#)) if you or a family member has symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started.

### **How can we reduce the risk of catching or spreading coronavirus?**

Most people can continue to go to work, school and other public places.

To protect yourself and other people:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home from school or work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

*We will be reinforcing this advice with our students and have posters on display throughout the school.*

### **What if a member of staff at the school is experiencing symptoms?**

The advice applies to everybody so they will need to self isolate.



### **What will happen if the school is directed to close?**

Should the government decide that schools need to close please be assured that as a school with a mature google infrastructure, we will ensure that through 'google classroom' students will be able to access work. All of our students are used to working through google and we are in the very fortunate position of being able to manage student learning remotely. We will ensure that students who can not access 'google classroom' will be supported with appropriate resources. Through the google system it is also possible to schedule learning events. Many of our students are also familiar with using GCSEPod and our departments already have sites they use to support independent learning.

We will ensure that students and parents have clear instructions as to how to access resources and/or live learning events should the school be directed to close.

### **What about public examinations, A levels, GCSEs etc. What plans are in place to manage them?**

At this stage the exam boards are advising schools to continue to prepare for exams and assessments as normal and completed within the published timetable. Please be assured that should there be any change in circumstances we will follow the guidance from Qualifications Wales and the exam boards to ensure students are not disadvantaged.

The link to their most recent advice from ofqual is here. [Updated statement on coronavirus](#)

### **Are there any cases of Coronavirus in the school?**

We currently do not have any evidence that there are any cases of Coronavirus at the school. I encourage you to look at the following site which updates statistics on a daily basis [Public Health Wales statement on Novel Coronavirus outbreak](#).

### **What about school trips?**

Schools have been advised not to take trips abroad so we have, unfortunately, had to cancel the Easter trip to Barcelona. We do however, have planned trips that take place during the school day and some of those trips have already had to be cancelled by the respective providers. We will continue to keep you updated on any changes that may have to take place.

### **What is the school doing to protect itself from infection?**

All the advice from NHS Wales is displayed around the school and we are encouraging our young people to follow it. Additional regular leaning is being undertaken by Sodexo staff, particularly with high contact areas.



# Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

## How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

## How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

## How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

### If you need to cough or sneeze



**Catch it with a tissue**



**Bin it**



**Kill it**

by washing your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser

### You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks & sports activities



Before cooking & eating



On arrival at any childcare or educational setting



After using the toilet



Before leaving home



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading by using the e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene available through [e-bug.eu](http://e-bug.eu)

## What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others at stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647 or NHS 111 if available in the area, for advice. Follow the Welsh Government advice for childcare or educational settings: [gov.wales/guidance-educational-settings-about-covid-19](http://gov.wales/guidance-educational-settings-about-covid-19). Parents can visit [phw.nhs.wales/coronavirus](http://phw.nhs.wales/coronavirus) to find out more information about coronavirus. Teachers and support staff should follow the Welsh Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Wuhan and Hubei Province in China should self-isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days. See [phw.nhs.wales/coronavirus](http://phw.nhs.wales/coronavirus) for advice on coronavirus.