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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Re: Coronavirus: Public Information and How to Stay Safe**

In the wake of the recent Coronavirus outbreaks globally, Public Health England and the Department of Education have issued the following advice to parents, carers and members of teaching staff. The threat level to individuals still remains low.

#### **Advice for those who have travelled recently**

Last week, the Chief Medical Advisor for England, Chris Whitty updated advice for travellers returning to the UK from specific areas affected by COVID-19, which you can find at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

If you have returned from the following 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 (see link to maps below)
- Special care zones in South Korea (see link to maps below)
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days – see link to maps below)

If you have returned from the following areas since 19 February and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111:

- Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini – see link to maps below)
- Vietnam

- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

If you have a cough, or fever or shortness of breath and have visited any of the following areas in the last 14 days, stay indoors and call NHS 111 informing them of your recent travel:

- China, apart from Hubei province (see link to maps below)
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea, apart from special care zones (see link to maps below)
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

### **Maps showing affected regions of China, Republic of Korea and Italy**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

**If you or your child/ren has travelled to one of the affected areas above, please contact the main office to inform us.**

We have a number of school trips planned both in the UK and internationally. At the moment, these will proceed as planned, but we will keep parents/carers informed of any changes.

### **A reminder to encourage good hygiene**

As always, if you have symptoms of a cold or flu, then there are measures you can take to stop germs:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel 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.

As of 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the DFE have launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Current guidance to schools is that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England.

Yours sincerely



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Academy Principal