

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – update, advice and guidance

13 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find below information received from the borough which we have been asked to circulate.

From Haggerston School

Coronavirus update

Nine patients in England have tested positive for coronavirus and if more cases are confirmed in the UK, it will be announced as soon as possible by the Chief Medical Officer.

Based on the World Health Organisation's declaration that this is a public health emergency of international concern, the UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the public from low to moderate. This permits the government to plan for all eventualities. The risk to individuals remains low.

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school/setting as normal.

Advice for parents/guardians intending to travel abroad this half term

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel abroad this half term to countries where there is a higher risk of transmission.

The affected countries are: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

If you are planning travel to these countries, please refer to <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/news/498/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-update> for the latest travel advice.

Public Health England has also issued general advice for members of the public <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public#advice-for-travellers>

What action you should take

A UK-wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Please help to support the campaign which promotes basic hygiene practices, such as regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue, to stem the spread of viruses.

Best advice to washing your hands can be found here from the NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

Anyone who has travelled to the UK from the countries listed in the last 14 days and is experiencing cough or fever or shortness of breath, should stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild.

Further information is available from <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Myth busting

A number of myths have emerged regarding the virus. Please see link from the World Health Organisation fact checking and myth busters around the virus.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

Further updates

If there is any change over the half term break in the circumstances specifically affecting the local area or the school, this will be posted on the school website

<https://haggerston.hackney.sch.uk/> and noted on the Council's education web page www.learningtrust.co.uk