

New Forest Care

Education



March 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

With the Coronavirus outbreak evolving on a daily basis I wanted to reassure you that the school is taking every necessary precaution to ensure that our community is kept safe. We are putting contingency measures in place for all our pupils should we be forced to close temporarily.

The Government has made it clear that they will 'take any measures necessary' to contain the spread of the virus and one possible measure could be to close schools. It is not something we expect to happen, but we are putting systems in place in case an edict from Public Health England demands that we do so.

I also need to make it clear to parents and guardians that if we are instructed to close that there is unlikely to be a facility whereby pupils can remain at school, so I encourage you all to consider what arrangements you would make in the unlikely event of the school shutting down.

The Senior Leadership Team are currently looking at plans and systems to support our student's education should the school be forced to close, particularly our Year 11 students leading up to their final exams.

I have included the current guidance from Public Health England below with a link to further information. We are keeping to this guidance and are in daily communication with our school medical team and the authorities to ensure that all reasonable measures are in place to keep going as usual whilst being sensibly cautious in protecting ourselves from an outbreak.

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

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Symptoms to look out for

If you've returned from any of the category 1 or 2 areas or countries, look out for the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)

According to other official guidance, while you wait for further advice:

- Avoid contact with others
- Stay at home – don't go to work or school
- Don't travel while sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing, throwing tissues in the bin
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available)

If you or your children have returned from a category 1 country or area in the past 14 days

*Only if you've returned on or after 19 February 2020

Contact NHS 111 for advice, and:

- Self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the country or area (see the home isolation advice sheet for help with this)
- If you become unwell, call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention) – see below for the symptoms to look out for

If you or your children have returned from a category 2 country or area in last 14 days

*Only if you've returned on or after 19 February 2020

If you or your children are well:

- You don't need to avoid contact with other people
- Your other family members don't need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities

If you become unwell:

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses (see the home isolation advice sheet for help with this)
- Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

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Our cleaning teams and teaching staff are taking extra measures to prevent any potential spread of the virus by doing more frequent cleans of the school sites and particularly possible risk areas, such as computer keyboards, door handles and other communal surface areas.

I would also ask all parents/carers to ensure we hold the correct/up to date email contact details as this will become a key method of communication in the unlikely event the school is required to close.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Senior Leadership Team.

Kind regards,



Duncan Smith
Headteacher