

New Forest Care Education

16th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As shared in my previous letter, as a school we are closely monitoring the Government and Public Health England guidance. As I am sure you are aware, the UK has moved to the 'delay phase' of its response to the COVID-19 Virus and provided update advice/guidance.

The latest advice from Public Health England for schools is as follows:

1. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:
 1. recent onset of a new continuous cough
 2. and/or high temperature.

If you have these symptoms, however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for **7 days** from when your symptoms started.

You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation.

If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact [NHS 111 online](#).

If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

NB: We are asking all students, parents/carers and staff to adhere to this advice to help prevent any possible spread of the virus within school.

2. Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so.

Use hand sanitiser if that's all you have access to.

NB: We currently have plenty of stock of hand washing materials for all students and staff.

3. To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don't have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel.

NB: We have tissues and hand gel available in classrooms but would be happy for parents/carers to provide students with their own personal pack of tissues if desired.

4. Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

NB: As previously shared, we have implemented an enhanced cleaning regime, particularly around high risk areas such as desks, work tops, keyboards/mice, door handles etc

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New Forest Care

Education



We have also taken the decision for some further, sensible practical steps to minimise the risks to our education provision:

Parents Evenings: Originally planned for the week beginning March 30th will now either be arranged for after Easter **OR** replaced with phone consultations.

External Visitors: We have postponed a number of meetings involving external visitors or switched to conference calls/online meetings.

School Trips: Any planned trips are being carefully assessed and where required postponed if the pose any risk to students/staff.

Finally, it is important that you are made aware of the contingency planning we have put into place should the school fully or partially close due to the COVID-19 Virus.

The senior leadership team have been working closely with subject leaders and staff members and we feel we are in a very strong position with measures in place for home learning should we need to put this into place for our students. Primarily, this is in the form of a new Virtual Learning Environment: a website allowing staff to provide work and materials for students to access from home alongside the various online platforms students already use in certain subjects.

We also have contingency plans for a partial closure or part time curriculum/attendance should staffing levels be severely affected with the new advice on self-isolation.

Should Public Health England inform us of any change to school remaining open, we will communicate with all parents/carers and provide details of how the online materials can be accessed and what help/support for students is available.

As with previous advice, if a case of Coronavirus is confirmed with your son/daughter or any immediate family member they have been in contact with, or your son/daughter has a new persistent cough or higher temperature and now needs to self-isolate please call the school or email us straight away at education@newforestschool.co.uk which will be constantly monitored and allow us to take advice from Public Health England.

Our school website has been updated and now has a specific page dedicated to Coronavirus which we will update regularly with national/school advice, information and the current school status. This can be found at www.newforestschool.co.uk/about/coronavirus/ - I would encourage all parents/carers to bookmark this for future reference.

Our thanks for your understanding and we will endeavour to keep you updated as the situation progresses.



Duncan Smith
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