

13th March 2020



TEES VALLEY
E D U C A T I O N
www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with information on the current outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19). To mitigate the risk to children and staff, we are following advice and guidance from Public Health England as published on the government website.

Please see links below for updates on Coronavirus:

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

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

Please see useful information below:

How serious in the coronavirus?

- It can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough and 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

Preventing spread of infection

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school



- use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol 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
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

To keep up to date with information on coronavirus, please visit Tees Valley Education Trust website:

<https://www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk/>

This is a rapidly evolving situation which we are monitoring carefully but based on the available evidence, the current risk to the UK is moderate. Children are to continue to attend school as normal. We will continue to follow daily updates, advice and guidance from the government and keep you informed of any changes.

Yours faithfully

Emma Chawner
Trust Business & Resource Manager