



27th February 2020

Dear Parent

Given the recent publicity and temporary closure of a school in Teesside, we are writing out to all our parents and staff. Please find attached a summary of the latest official Government guidance, where you can get updates from and confirmation that our Trust is closely monitoring the situation and following the official guidance. In the event of any change effecting our schools, we will inform parents and staff.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): latest information and advice

Information for the public on the outbreak of coronavirus in China, including the current situation in the UK and information about the virus and its symptoms.

Published 24 January 2020

Last updated 26 February 2020

From: [Department of Health and Social Care](#) and [Public Health England](#)

The symptoms of this new coronavirus (now known as COVID-19) include fever and respiratory symptoms including coughing, sneezing, and shortness of breath. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): latest information and advice

The Department of Health and Social Care will be publishing updated data on this page every day at 2pm until further notice. If more cases are confirmed in the UK, it will be announced as soon as possible by the Chief Medical Officer of the affected country. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Risk level

Based on the World Health Organization's declaration that this is a public health emergency of international concern, the UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the UK from low to moderate.

This permits the government to plan for all eventualities.

Returning travellers

Based on the scientific advice of the [Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies \(SAGE\)](#) the UK Chief Medical Officers are advising anyone who has travelled to the UK from mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the last 14 days and is experiencing cough or fever or shortness of breath, to stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild.

We are carrying out enhanced monitoring of direct flights from these areas. Passengers will be told how to report any symptoms they develop during the flight, at the time of arrival, or after leaving the airport.

These areas have been identified because of the volume of air travel from affected areas, understanding of other travel routes and number of reported cases. This list will be kept under review.

If you have returned from these specific areas (below) since 19 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](#) as designated by the Government of Italy
- [‘special care zones’ in South Korea](#) as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
- Hubei province in China (returned in the past 14 days)

Lockdown areas in northern Italy:

- in Lombardy: Codogno, Castiglione d’Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgerundo and San Fiorano
- in Veneto: Vo’ Euganeo

Special care zones in South Korea:

- Daegu
- Cheongdo

If you have returned from the following areas (*below*) 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. **You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms.**

- northern Italy (anywhere north of Pisa, Florence and Rimini)
- Vietnam

- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

Information about the virus

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China.

Encouraging good hygiene

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

- 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.

Latest information

Updates on Coronavirus:

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

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>