

25th February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Coronavirus concerns

You will be aware of the outbreak of novel coronavirus in China and the subsequent confirmed cases in the UK. At Litcham School we take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, and we are therefore sharing [guidance](#) from Public Health England on the steps you should be taking.

A number of our students and staff have recently returned from a ski trip in Northern Italy. **Please be assured that the visit was not in the specific lockdown areas as designated by the Government of Italy.** The UK Government has updated their guidance this morning to say that if anyone has returned from Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini) since February 19th, **and they develop the symptoms, however mild, they should:**

- Stay indoors at home.
- Avoid contact with other people.
- Call NHS 111.

Symptoms are:

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

This therefore applies to students and staff who were on the ski trip. If they have no symptoms, they should not follow this advice and other students and staff are not affected.

Please be assured that the risk is low and there remains no cause for concern at school. We will of course continue to update our advice, following guidance issued by the Government. We will continue to keep the school clean to prevent the spread of any virus.

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.
- 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.

Continued ...

- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – Don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

If you or your children have returned from anywhere in Hubei province in past 14 days

Contact NHS 111 for advice, and:

- Self-isolate for 14 days after leaving Hubei. Please see the home isolation advice from the following link for help with this <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>.
- 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 specified area in last 14 days

The specified areas are:

- China (other than Hubei).
- Hong Kong.
- Japan.
- Macau.
- Malaysia.
- Singapore.
- South Korea.
- Taiwan.
- Thailand.

If you have returned from these specific areas since February 19, you should call NHS111 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 (returned in the past 14 days).

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 (see below for a list of symptoms):

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses. Please see the home isolation advice from the following link for help with this <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>.
- Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention).

Symptoms to look out for

If you've returned from the specified areas or Hubei, 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 child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely



Robert Martlew
Headteacher

