

Wednesday 11th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Coronavirus Update for Schools (5)

Yesterday, the Prime Minister confirmed that the government's response to COVID-19 remains in the Contain phase – the first phase in the government's coronavirus action plan. Advice from Public Health England continues to be for education and children's social care settings to remain open, unless advised otherwise.

Public Health England have updated their travel advice, recommending that anyone returning from Italy should self-isolate, even if you do not have any symptoms. If you do develop symptoms, call NHS 111.

The latest travel guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Further information on what you should do if you are asked to self-isolate can be found here:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/20/what-is-self-isolation-and-why-is-it-important/>

We understand that this continues to be an anxious time for everyone, but please be reassured that we continue to follow all of the latest government guidance.

In particular, to reduce the risk of the coronavirus spreading we are reminding everyone to:

1. 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.
2. 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.

Oak Academy

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It is really helpful for us if you can again remind your children to follow the advice about hand washing which is:

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

There remains in our reception a hand sanitiser unit, which everyone is welcome to use upon entry to the academy and at any time of the day. Our soap dispensers are being checked daily to ensure that there is sufficient soap for everyone to wash their hands with.

We are also continuing to clean the academy at the end of every day and, as far as possible, during the day as well.

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is now available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

The advice continues to remain that no school should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID 19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England.

The government have also issued their action plan to manage their response to the coronavirus which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Please be reassured that if this advice changes, or our local situation changes, I will write again to you with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely



Richard Burgas
Principal
Oak Academy