



16th March 2020

Corona Virus Community Update 4

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to update you on the latest COV-19 situation and further steps we are taking as a school to ensure continued education with the least amount of disruption during these challenging times. Included in this letter is some guidance on how to access our online learning environment should your child be absent from school.

Government guidance is that should you or your child have symptoms, you should self-isolate. I include the Government guidance on this below for reference:

- *The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of a new continuous cough 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.*

Included in this document

1. Latest Government guidance for reference.
2. Our school specific 'Steps to take for Continued Education' document.

For those parents that have chosen not to send their child to school, a central online classroom code will be issued. Please note that whilst the school is still open, our teachers are delivering their lessons and so online work will be issued in the form of a pack. For those without internet access, a printed pack can be collected from school.

As you can imagine, we are having an increased number of calls relating to this matter. In this case, we ask that the above Government guidance is followed. I will also continue to send out regular updates to ensure communication is kept clear and consistent. The school has made a number of changes to ensure we have contingencies should the number of suspected cases continue to rise and/or a number of staff are absent, this will be monitored closely and appropriate action taken.

Last week we postponed our Year 8 Parents' Evening and all other large events. We have also cancelled external trips – following national guidance where appropriate. We will keep you updated on this once we know more.



Key Government Guidance - all in one place

Government announces move from Contain to Delay phase

Yesterday, the Government announced that we are moving from the Contain phase of the coronavirus action plan and into the Delay phase, in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Full details of each stage in the government action plan can be found here:

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

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

- Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.
- The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

COVID-19 travel guidance for the education sector

The Government has issued new travel guidance for the education sector. This advises against all overseas education trips for children under 18. This does not apply to domestic trips, or overseas trips which are already underway.

The full guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance-for-the-education-sector>



Handwashing advice

- The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.
- Watch this short NHS film for guidance:

<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Educational resources

- The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.
- Resources are currently available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 and can be used in various settings including schools:

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

- The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is 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
- Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)
- Please note, we are currently experiencing high volumes of calls and apologise for any wait that you may experience. To ensure that we answer your calls as quickly as possible we have now extended our opening hours to cover weekends.
- If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the hotline.

Where to find the latest information

- Updates on COVID-19:

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



Guidance for educational settings:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Guidance for social or community care and residential settings:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-social-or-community-care-and-residential-settings-on-covid-19>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

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

Educational resources:

- <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-resources>
- <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>

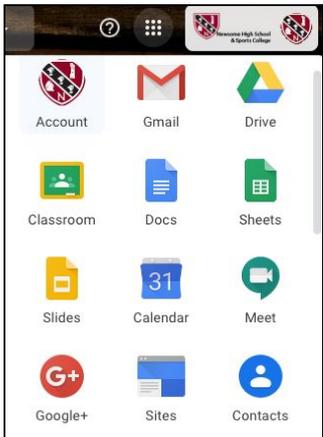
Latest Department for Education information:

- <https://twitter.com/educationgovuk>
- <https://www.facebook.com/educationgovuk/>



STEPS TO TAKE FOR CONTINUED EDUCATION

GUIDANCE ON E-LEARNING PLATFORMS AT NEWSOME

<p>STEP 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure you have spoken to your child and have the details from their log-in access card. Please make a copy for safekeeping. 	
<p>STEP 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take your child through the steps of logging in to their school Gmail account and become familiar with the platform. After signing in, click on the 'grid' button on the top right of the screen. Select the icon named 'classroom'. This will take you to the area where all your child's classes are located. Each class will be managed by their class teacher. Please note that this function will only be in use in the event of a school closure. 	
<p>STEP 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your child is self-isolating, work will be supplied through a key-stage-specific online classroom. Once you have called school, your child will be invited to the class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS3 covers Years 7, 8 & 9. KS4 covers Years 10 & 11. Here, you will find a range of resources for your child to be working on. There is also a facility for them to communicate with school should they need anything. Please note that response will not be instant during operational hours of the school. 	

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Watkin: Headteacher