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Protecting and improving the nation's health

www.gov.uk/phe

FAO: Parents, Carers & Staff

01/03/2020

Dear parents, carers and staff,

Re: HPZ ref: 1838281 COVID-19

We are writing to give you some more detailed information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) following the school's communication with you this morning.

We can confirm that a member of staff at the school has tested positive for COVID-19 and is currently getting all necessary support and advice from health services. They are currently well. The staff member had become infected whilst in Northern Italy and we believe this is where they acquired the infection. The member of staff concerned was not working in a classroom with children.

A deep clean of the school was carried out on Saturday 29th February 2020 and PHE is confident that the school has followed all the advice given to them.

PHE are carrying out detailed contact tracing and have already contacted all the people who had the most contact with them. These people are being asked to isolate themselves at home and look out for relevant symptoms e.g. cough, fever, shortness of breath. Any contacts who develop symptoms within 14 days of exposure will be assessed and tested. Contacts with symptoms should ring NHS111 (or 999 in case of emergency) and inform NHS111 of their exposure to COVID-19. They should NOT go directly to healthcare settings.

All other people can go about their day to day activities as normal.

As there are a number of staff self-isolating as a result of the case, the school will need to close for a couple of days whilst operational issues are resolved. We anticipate that the school will be able to re-open on Wednesday.

Please be assured that the risk of infection to any others is very low and there is currently no public health reason for the school to close.

The best thing everyone can do is to make sure you follow good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene which is to:

- **Catch coughs and sneezes with a tissue, dispose of the tissue in a bin immediately and then wash your hands with soap and water (or hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available). Dry hands thoroughly after washing.**
- **Wash your hands with soap and water (or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available) frequently and especially on arrival and before leaving home or any childcare or educational setting, before cooking and eating, after using the toilet, and after breaks or sporting activities.**
- **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are unwell**

Background information

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Novel coronavirus (2019-nCov) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China world. Novel coronavirus (2019-nCov) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China.

Symptoms of novel coronavirus are respiratory and include fever and a cough that may progress to shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems such as older people and those with long term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

You can keep up to date with national advice and Information regarding coronavirus by visiting

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>
- <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/13/expert-interview-what-is-contact-tracing/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Yours sincerely



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