



Coronavirus (Covid-19) - Update for Parents/Carers

Friday 13th March 2020

We wish to provide an update for parents/carers on the evolving situation with regard to Coronavirus. Yesterday, the Government updated its advice to all.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#at-home-try-as-best-you-can-to-separate-yourself-from-the-people-you-live-with>

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection

Key messages

- if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started.
- this action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious.
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home.
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home.
- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible.
- sleep alone, if that is possible.
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water.
- stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible.
- you do not need to call NHS111 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.

Who this guidance is for

This advice is intended for people with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), including those with a diagnosis of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, who must remain at home until they are well.

In light of the above advice if your child develops symptoms please do not send them into school for at least 7 days from the first day. So that we can ensure the safety of all our students please continue to contact Attendance to report your child's absence, simply advising us that they are in self isolation, on 01749 836210 or email office@blue.somerset.sch.uk.

As of today, there are no known positive COVID-19 cases in our Blue School community. If this situation arises, we will follow Government Public Health England advice on how to manage the school at the time and will advise you and your child accordingly.

Increased sanitisation cleaning is taking place around the campus during and after the school day using appropriate disinfectant. This includes areas most commonly touched such as desks and furniture, door handles and stair banisters. Toilets are being cleaned regularly and soap is being replenished. Staff are reminding students of the importance of handwashing for 20 seconds with soap. Please help us with this by reminding your son or daughter to respect basic personal hygiene including coughs and sneezes - catch it, bin it, kill it!

Following yesterday's Government update an instruction to close schools does not appear to be imminent, but could happen in the future as part of the "delay stage" of the virus management response.

The school is working on contingencies to deliver learning opportunities to students during such a closure period, using online platforms including Google Classroom and Kerboodle as well as activities that will not require use of IT equipment in the home. We do appreciate that not all our students will have access to IT equipment at home.

Our priority is to support students in Years 13 and 11 as they prepare for the summer exams, followed by Years 12 and 10 and then 9, 8 and 7. Staff are currently working on these plans and resources as well as continuing to deliver teaching at this time.

In the event of a closure, we will be communicating with students via their `firstname.surname@theblueschoolwells.co.uk` email address. We cannot communicate via other personal email addresses (or messaging apps) for reasons of safeguarding and data protection. Students are being reminded of their login credentials in school and we ask if you could help with this by checking with your son and daughter that they know how to get access at home.

If it arises, a closure notice may come at short notice and, if you have not already, we ask you to think about your preparations for such if this eventuality arises.

To help us to be able to communicate effectively with you as parent/carer, please can we remind you to update us if your contact details have changed eg: mobile phone, email address. You can do this via our website at

https://www.theblueschoolwells.co.uk/section.php/66/1/update_your_contact_details.

For the time being, the Government has stopped all overseas school trips and accordingly we will update parents/carers of students scheduled to go on the Spanish and French visits in July following liaison with the Tour Operator and our Insurer. However, the Government has not stopped UK based school trips and activities such as Year 7 Camp, Ten Tors and DoE. We will follow Government instruction in this matter and advise parents/carers if the situation changes.

We appreciate that this period is an anxious time. Please can we ask all members of the community to remain courteous and patient with school staff as we deal with the developing situation. We will advise you of any changes as soon as we are able to.

Finally, a reminder that the Government has an enquiries helpline for parents/carers, young people and school staff on **0800 046 8687**, open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively, you can email: DfE.coronavirus@education.gov.uk

The Blue School