

25th February 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

We continue to monitor the development of the Coronavirus/Covid-19 epidemic and would like to update you now on new advice concerning overseas travel. The incidence in the last week of a serious outbreak in northern Italy brings the epidemic closer to home and is particularly concerning given the rapidity of its spreading there.

Today's advice from Public Health England is that if you have returned from travel since 19 February from:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy (Lombardy and Veneto)
- 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)

You should immediately:

- stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu
- call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the area

This advice applies even if no symptoms are in evidence. Please find the link to the latest advice here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIk8e-iK3s5wIVA7DtCh2WnAMZEAAYASAAEgKWUvD_BwE.

There are a number of other areas which have been identified as high risk, as follows:

China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Northern Italy

If you or any member of your family have travelled to any of these regions in the last 14 days or been in close contact with someone who has returned from these regions, please alert the school. We ask that you test the temperature of your child daily if they have travelled to these areas in the last 14 days (or been in close contact with someone who has) before sending them to school and keep them at home if this shows a reading of greater than 38 degrees Celsius or if they show any other symptoms.

As before:

- It is recommended that you do not travel to any of these countries in the next two months unless essential
- If you, your children, or any member of your family living with you, do intend to travel to any of the above, we respectfully ask you to let us know immediately by contacting parents@hendonprep.co.uk with details of the country and location of the visit, those on the trip and the expected arrival and return dates.
- Upon your return, please contact us before sending your child back to school, so we can review whether it is appropriate for your child to return immediately or not, based on the latest information available.
- If any pupils are in close proximity with people who have been to any of these same countries recently, please also let us know so we may take this into consideration.

Where pupils are required to stay at home the school will provide a programme of work and learning materials online to ensure your children are able to keep pace with the rest of their class during a short period of absence from school. We appreciate that these measures may be inconvenient to affected families but trust you understand that the health and safety of our pupils and broader school community are paramount.

Finally, we reiterate the important advice provided by Public Health England with regard to essential hygiene measures including regular hand washing.

Thank you for helping us take all the appropriate precautions at this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us. We will keep you updated as this challenging situation develops.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Tushi Gorasia
Head of School