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Dear Parent/Carer

### **Re: Coronavirus concerns**

You're likely aware of the outbreak of novel coronavirus and the subsequent confirmed cases in the UK. At Laygate Community School, we take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, so we're sharing guidance from Public Health England on steps you should be taking.

There's currently no cause for concern at the school, but we'll keep you informed about any developments and ensure we're keeping the school clean to prevent the spread of any virus.

We are encouraging handwashing with the children through workshops and guidance in class, we will also be using alcohol-based sanitiser. If you do not wish your child to use hand sanitiser, please contact the school office. We are also providing extra facial tissues and hand soaps in every class.

### **Guidance the school is following**

#### **Preventing the spread of infection**

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus: Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

Avoid close contact with people who are sick

If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home

If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

#### **Travel**

**If you are intending to go on holiday you must inform the school office of where you are travelling too, even if it is during school holidays. Forms must be completed and handed into the school office. If you have recently been on holiday, please inform the school office of the destination you have been.**

**If you or your children have returned from a category 1 country or area in the past 14 days**  
This includes:

Wuhan city and Hubei province, China

Iran\*

Daegu or Cheongdo, South Korea\*

Any Italian town under containment measures\* (you can view the maps by typing the address below into your browser online:

**[www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas)**

\*Only if you've returned on or after 19 February 2020

Contact NHS 111 for advice, and:

Self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the country or area (see the home isolation advice sheet for help with this) you can view this online using the following address:

**[www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation)**

If you become unwell, call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention) – see below for the symptoms to look out for

**If you or your children have returned from a category 2 country or area in last 14 days**

This includes:

Cambodia, China (other than Wuhan city or Hubei province), Hong Kong, Italy: north\*, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, South Korea (other than Daegu or Cheongdo), Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

\*Only if you've returned on or after 19 February 2020

If you or your children are well:

You don't need to avoid contact with other people

Your other family members don't need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities

If you become unwell (see below for a list of symptoms):

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses (see the home isolation advice sheet for help with this)

Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

**Symptoms to look out for**

If you've returned from any of the category 1 or 2 areas or countries, look out for the following symptoms:

Cough

Difficulty in breathing

Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)

**According to other official guidance, while you wait for further advice:**

Avoid contact with others

Stay at home – don't go to work or school

Don't travel while sick

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing, throwing tissues in the bin.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available)

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 0191 4562470.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Lauder  
Head Teacher