



The Merton Primary School
To be the best we can be.

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you about Coronavirus and the measures the school is taking to keep all pupils safe. We continue to monitor the situation regularly and to follow the advice of Public Health England (PHE). We are encouraging all members of the school to help in slowing the spread of all germs, including Coronavirus, and protecting themselves by:

- carrying tissues and using them to catch coughs or sneezes;
- placing the tissue in the bin;
- to kill the germs, washing their hands with soap and water, or using a sanitiser gel.

Public Health England (PHE) and Leicestershire County Council have today (9 March) confirmed that a second Leicestershire resident has a confirmed case of COVID-19. PHE and Leicestershire County Council say the risk to the general public remains low.

Public Health England, Leicestershire County Council and the local NHS continue to work closely together in Leicestershire to respond and Public Health England is currently contacting people who may have had close contact with the second confirmed case.

Close contacts will be given health advice about symptoms and emergency contact details to use if they become unwell in the 14 days after they had contact with the confirmed case. This tried and tested method will ensure that any risk to them is minimised and the wider public is protected.

PHE and the NHS are well-prepared to deal with coronavirus and the priority is to safeguard local communities which sometimes involves taking preventative measures to help reduce the risk of further cases.

Based on current evidence, Coronavirus COVID-19 presents with flu-like symptoms including a fever, a cough, or difficulty breathing. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild. Anyone who is concerned about health symptoms is advised to follow the advice about what to do on the [Government's website](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public) (www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public) and [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk).

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Current guidance is to:

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people if you've travelled to the UK from the following places in the last 14 days, even if you do not have symptoms:

- Iran
- Hubei province in China
- Special care zones in South Korea (Daegu, Cheongdo, Gyeongsan)

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people if you've travelled to the UK from the following places, even if you do not have symptoms:

- Italy (since 9 March 2020)

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people if you've travelled to the UK from the following places in the last 14 days and have a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath, even if your symptoms are mild:

- mainland China outside of Hubei province
- South Korea outside of the special care zones
- Cambodia
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do next.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

In all cases, Public Health England advice should be followed.

The latest information on the at risk countries can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus.

We will be endorsing this guidance in our school, so if any members of your family, including pupils at the school, visit any of the affected countries please follow the above advice.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep in touch with you as it develops. Thank you for your support in protecting the health and wellbeing of all our pupils.

Yours sincerely



Shelagh Thomson
Headteacher