

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

6 March 2020 - Statement update from Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST)

This information has been sent following the updated Government guidance. Nexus Education Schools Trust will follow the guidance to insure our communities are kept informed and are well supported.

The Government has publicised the four stage action plan to deal with the Corona Virus in the UK. Here is the link for the Government four stage action plan.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

In a letter to all Academy trusts today from Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner states:

As the plan makes clear, the emergence of this virus poses a significant global challenge. To-date, advice from Public Health England has concentrated on containing spread of the virus within the UK. The UK and the NHS are well prepared to respond to the challenge posed by COVID-19.

The action plan recognises that we do not have entirely complete data on this disease. As such, the action plan will be revised in light of emerging trends and patterns, including consideration of measures you will have read about such as reducing large scale gatherings and closing schools.

I want to advise that all academy trusts should expect to be working in close collaboration with your relevant local authorities who hold the appropriate local civil contingency responsibilities.

The importance of localised coordination of intelligence and action cannot be overstated, and Regional Schools Commissioners (RSCs) will of course also be liaising with local authorities and supporting their coordination and information gathering functions.

No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do by Public Health England.

Updated travel information for travellers returning from Italy. The advice remains the same for travellers returning from the lockdown areas of Italy; that you should self-isolate even if not showing symptoms. The advice for other parts of Italy has been expanded to cover the whole country: **if you have returned from anywhere else in Italy outside of the lockdown areas you should self-isolate if you develop symptoms and call 111.**

Corona Virus information is continually updated so please advise your school on any travel information for close family members. As Stated in Dominic Herrington's statement; schools will remain open until advised by Public Health England, Local or Government Authority.

Schools continue to promote healthy hygiene habits with pupils and there are resources on the Government web site to support families.

In addition, the Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Department of Education Help Line:

- **Phone: 0800 046 8687**
- **Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk**
- **Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)**

Schools continue to communicate with each other and the Local Authority, to provide the best support for staff and pupils. Please remember to keep your school updated on any relevant information or changes to health.

We will continue to keep families updated on any change to advice. In individual schools will also keep families updated on any day to day changes including advice to trips and activities.

Yours sincerely

NEST Central Team

Latest Government information

4 March Updates on Coronavirus:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Government advice on hygiene

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-information-campaign-focuses-on-handwashing>