



26 February 2020

Dear Student,

You have no doubt heard the news and seen social media reports of Coronavirus spreading to the UK. We understand this may be causing concern to some students and so have provided the information below that we hope you find helpful in understanding more about the virus.

What is Coronavirus?

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus, first identified in Wuhan City, China, in January 2020.

How is it spread?

From what we know about other coronaviruses, spread (also known as 'transmission') of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person.

Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes (called 'respiratory secretions') containing the virus are most likely to be the main means of transmission.

What steps can I take to protect myself?

There are general actions anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses (such as coronavirus and flu), including:

- washing your hands regularly - with soap and water, or using hand sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after using public transport
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. "Catch it! Bin it! Kill it!"

The current situation

To date, there are thirteen patients in England who have tested positive for COVID-19, none of whom are in the West Midlands region. Of the remaining 6782 tests that have been undertaken in the UK, all have been confirmed as negative. **The risk to individuals in the UK remains low.**

As you are probably aware, we have advised that five of our students should stay at home following a recent trip to Northern Italy, as a matter of precaution. **Please be assured that none of the students visited a quarantined town** (a town where cases have previously been reported); **nor were they showing any symptoms of a cold/Coronavirus.**

It is important to remain calm about this matter.

The health and safety of our staff, students, visitors and the wider community is our top priority and we are taking advice from the recognised experts. The School will continue to operate as normal unless we are advised otherwise.

If you have any concerns about the Coronavirus, please speak to an adult at home, to a member of staff at school or look on the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public> for the latest updates.

Best wishes,

Mr Kelly
Headteacher

(KL-LL) Letter to students re Coronavirus 260220