

Updated for (COVID-19) – 17th March 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance & Update for Schools and other education settings

(Advice from Croydon LA)

We are aware that over the past weeks, there has been a significant increase in the amount of information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). It is important to focus on the facts and follow official sources - Public Health England, NHS and Department for Education - for the latest updates on Coronavirus.

As this is an evolving situation, we want to provide you with timely and accurate information and to assure you that Croydon is monitoring the situation and is in communication with the Department for Education and Public Health England about how the coronavirus should be managed in schools.

We understand that some staff, parents/carers and pupils may be concerned and have questions about the coronavirus (COVID-19) so we plan to provide regular updates to schools which can be shared with the school community.

At present, no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) coronavirus case unless directed to do so by Public Health England (PHE). We ask that you trust the advice and guidance given by central government on the coronavirus.

The government's strategy consists of 'contain, delay, research, mitigate' and on **17th March**, the Prime Minister announced the move from 'contain' to 'delay' the spread of the coronavirus. The advice is as follows:

- ***“if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started.***
- ***if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill”***

Please see updates on COVID-19 link below for further guidance.

The Department for Education has launched a new coronavirus helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education and children's social care. Staff, parents/carers and pupils can contact the helpline by:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Where to find the latest information:

Updates on COVID-19:

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

Guidance for educational settings:

[COVID-19: guidance for educational settings](#)

Latest Department for Education information:

- <https://twitter.com/educationgovuk>
- <https://www.facebook.com/educationgovuk/>

What you need to know:

- **Staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal**
- **If staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home**