



25th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Urgent health advice for students who have been on the Ski Trip

You may be aware from media coverage about an outbreak of the coronavirus in Northern Italy. I am writing to inform you that the school ski trip visited a village in Italy called Tarvisio on the evening of 19th February, to eat pizza in a local restaurant. There are a number of specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy; Tarvisio is not in one of these specific lockdown areas. However, **the Public Health England advice applies to a wider area of Northern Italy, which includes Tarvisio.**

We have therefore been in contact with Public Health England about this and their current guidance is as follows:

Anyone who has returned from Northern Italy (this includes Tarvisio) since 19th February should self-isolate and call NHS 111 **if they develop symptoms within 14 days of 19th February.** Any student who visited Tarvisio on the trip and now has symptoms of a **cough, fever or shortness of breath** should stay at home and phone NHS 111. This advice should be followed even if the symptoms are minor. *Anyone who visited Tarvisio on the trip but does not have symptoms can come to school as usual.*

It is important that the school is aware of any concerns that you may have as soon as possible. Should you need to update the school about any health issues, or have any questions, please contact Ms Gostling on d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk (please copy in our Director of Resources Charlotte Finch at c.finch@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) or call the Main School Reception. Please title any emails 'Ski Trip Health' or let the Main School Reception know that your call is about the ski trip so that we can respond as soon as possible.

Finally, we are contacting all families about the advice from the NHS about how to stop viruses like the coronavirus spreading. This is as follows:

DO:

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately
- wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

DON'T:

- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

For further information please see the following guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>



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We hope that you understand our obligation to share this advice with you. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any point should you require any clarification in any way. We thank you, in advance, for your vigilance and support with this complex situation.

Yours faithfully

G. Lowe

Gloria Lowe

Headteacher