



27th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus Update

We have been very grateful for the support of all families following our letter about the coronavirus earlier this week. We are writing with an update on our current situation.

As you will be aware, Sydenham School continues to be open as usual. This is in line with advice from Public Health England and the local authority. We are actively monitoring the situation and will immediately contact you with further updates if needed.

There has been specific advice issued to the families of students who attended our school ski trip to Austria, and this remains in place. If you would like to see this advice, you can access it via this [link](#) to our school website. **The advice of Public Health England is that students who attended the trip can continue to attend school as normal unless they show the symptoms of a cough, fever or shortness of breath.**

Families who have recently travelled to an affected region should continue to follow the Public Health England advice found at this link:

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

Please discuss with your child the importance of maintaining excellent hygiene habits related to reducing the risk of respiratory viruses including the flu and the coronavirus. We will also be reinforcing this at school. Schools have been given advice by Public Health England about what students should do when they are on the school site. Please note that this advice does not include covering your face with a mask or scarf or wearing gloves. The advice is as follows:

1. wash hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
2. follow the Catch It, Kill It, Bin It rule: cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
3. students should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - before the end of breaks and sporting activities
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school



4. avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
5. avoid close contact with people who are unwell

It is important that Sydenham School is immediately informed of any concerns that you may have about your child. Please contact the school either by telephoning our Main School Reception or emailing the following members of staff (please copy all staff on this list into your email):

Ms Gostling (Deputy Headteacher): d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Ms Finch (Director of Resources): c.finch@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

For Sixth Form: Ms Brown (Sixth Form Administrative Assistant): m.brown@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

For Year 7-11: Ms Skinner (Attendance and Welfare Coordinator): j.skinner@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

We very much appreciate the support that you will give us over the coming weeks that will help us to manage this situation, which we hope does not develop further. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any point should you require any clarification.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher