

PANGBOURNE

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Protocol

Updated 16 March 2020

The new COVID-19 is known as a high consequence infectious acute respiratory disease. The virus normally causes a low to moderate infection with symptoms of a fever, dry cough or chest tightness with dyspnoea (shortness of breath) however in some people a severe pneumonia can develop leading to being cared for in intensive care – these cases can be life threatening. Generally, Covid-19 can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people and those with long-term conditions such as heart disease, chronic lung disease, cancer and diabetes.

At present there is no vaccination against the virus and a cure is yet to be developed. Antibiotics will not help as this is a viral rather than a bacterial infection.

This College Protocol is being monitored and updated regularly depending on the decisions taken by the government and Public Health England.

Students who have travelled to Category 1 Countries

Pupils who have been to Category 1 Countries as defined by PHE must self-isolate for 14 days even if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19. Stay at home and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses. Consult NHS 111 online if symptoms develop.

Students who have travelled to Category 2 Countries

Pupils who have been to Category 2 Countries as defined by PHE will be monitored daily by the Health Centre staff, in accordance with advice from the College's Medical Officer. All students can remain in school if they are symptom free. Monitoring will involve a daily temperature check as fever is one of the first symptoms, and a general assessment of other symptoms.

Students who develop COVID-19 symptoms in the UK

If already in their room in Division: The pupil will be immediately isolated there and medical staff advised. In this way the potential spread of infection is limited.

If unwell in other areas of school: The pupil will be sent to the Medical Centre, not to touch anything on the way. On arrival he/she will be isolated in a single room.

Once isolated the Duty Nurse will call parents to arrange for students to go home and self-isolate, in accordance with the PHE guidelines, for 7 days. The Duty Nurse will care for the student until arrangements for the student to leave college are in place.

If the student is extremely unwell and requires an ambulance, the caller will need to advise the 999 co-ordinator of the potential diagnosis. The Medical Centre staff will cascade information to the Headmaster, SMT and relevant Housemaster.

PANGBOURNE

An accurate trace as possible of where the unwell student has been will be required so that deep cleaning, correctly using PPE equipment, can be undertaken. These areas will remain closed off until they have been cleaned.

If the student needs to use a bathroom then communal facilities must not be used.

If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in a childcare or educational setting no restrictions or special control measures are required. There is no need to close the setting or send other students or staff home.

If a possibility of COVID-19 seems likely when a consultation is already in progress in the Medical Centre, the student should be isolated in the single room. The consulting room should be closed until deep cleaned.

Adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs to be available for those at risk of potential contamination, particularly Medical Staff; this should include aprons, nitrile gloves, masks, goggles (to avoid splash infection in eyes) and 60% alcohol hand gel.

If a large number of the school community are suspected to be unwell, then an area may need to be available for them to be isolated until they can be moved. This area will need to have access to bathroom facilities, preferably as close as possible and should not be shared with anyone else.

Self-isolation Guidelines

If a student has symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, they must:

- Stay at home and not leave the house for 7 days from when their symptoms begin,
- Stay at least 2 metres away from other people in the home whenever possible,
- Sleep alone if that is possible,
- Wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds using soap and water.
- There is no need to inform NHS 111 unless the symptoms are severe or not improving after 7 days. There is an NHS 111 online service for additional guidance.

Preventing Spread of Infection

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport.
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin (catch it, bin it, kill it).
- People who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting.

PANGBOURNE

- Students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
 - Before leaving school
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague please refer to NHS111 online. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

