

Den Haag, 1 maart 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

As you may know, now Europe and The Netherlands have reported cases of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

As promised, here is an update, reporting new information from the RIVM on the email sent out by European School The Hague, on the 27th of February.

Updated Risk Areas

The latest update from the RIVM states that people who have been traveling to one of the areas where the coronavirus is prevalent and have respiratory complaints are advised to stay at home. If the symptoms get worse, contact the doctor by telephone.

It involves people who traveled to northern Italy: In Northern Italy, the following eight provinces are considered risk areas: the Aosta Valley, Piedmont, Lombardy, Trentino-South Tyrol, Friuli-Julian-Venice, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna and Liguria, and globally: China, South Korea, Iran and Singapore. Please note that the RIVM will update this list frequently and this list may therefore not be exhaustive by the time that you read this.

Update on symptoms

The RIVM no longer talks about coughing, sneezing in combination with fever. The RIVM request people already to be extra vigilant and considerate when they have slight respiratory complaints without fever.

Schools stay open:

The Dutch government has not advised schools to close. Our teachers have been advised to follow the aforementioned guidelines of the RIVM and to stay at home if they are symptomatic and monitor themselves.

Returning from Holiday:

- Families who have had a holiday in a “high risk” area (as defined by RIVM) are advised to contact their GP by telephone (or local GGD) if they experience symptoms such as fever and coughing / shortness of breath.
- Families who have had a holiday in a “high risk” area and are experiencing minor symptoms of coughing/sneezing but not fever are advised to be extra vigilant and rather err on the side of caution and reduce risk for the safety of the ESH community.
Note that School management however cannot oblige parents to not send their children to school.

Please also note that if you have travelled to any other countries or areas where there are no widespread cases of COVID-19 reported and have had no known contact with an infected person, the



risk is very low. If you are worried, please call your doctor (general practitioner - huisarts) for appropriate advice.

Again, we would like to remind you that European School The Hague is following the advice of the RIVM (National Institute of Public Health and the Environment) www.rivm.nl and the GGD Den Haag (The Hague Municipal Centre for Public Health). Further to this, we also take into consideration the assessment and advice on the spread of the virus in various countries, issued by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

As communicated by the WHO, the best way to avoid spreading of the Coronavirus, also at schools, is through good respiratory hygiene:

- Frequently clean hands by using soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel;
- When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or (better) a tissue – throw tissue away immediately in a closed bin and wash your hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever/cough;
- Avoid unnecessary close contact, such as shaking hands or kisses.

We would like to refer you to the RIVM Q&A webpage, <https://www.rivm.nl/en/novel-coronavirus/questions-and-answers-novel-coronavirus>.

Thank you for your attention and co-operation in this matter. Our school is closely following the situation and will keep you informed of further developments.

Met vriendelijke groet/Kind regards/Mit freundlichen Grüßen/Cordialement/ Saludos Cordiales,

Management team of The European School The Hague