

Den Haag, 27 februari 2020

Dear Parents, dear Pupils, dear Guardians,

Several countries around the world, and recently including countries in Europe, have reported cases of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Further global spread is very likely.

In response to questions that have been submitted to us on the Coronavirus, we would like to inform you that the European School The Hague follows the directions 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](http://ecdc.europa.eu)).

We would like to refer you to the RIVM Q&A webpage which is also available in English <https://www.rivm.nl/en/novel-coronavirus/questions-and-answers-novel-coronavirus>. This webpage gives you information how to act if you suspect you have been in contact with the virus; that is, by contacting your general practitioner (huisarts) by telephone. Please read this page and follow the advice precisely.

If you have travelled around in countries or areas where the virus has confirmed cases, we want you to be extra vigilant and considerate. We explicitly ask you to send an email to: primary@eshthehague.nl (for Primary pupils) or secondary@eshthehague.nl (for Secondary pupils) before the start of the coming school week. We will return your mail by seeking telephone contact with you and review your personal situation.

Please note that if you travelled to any other country than the areas referred to above and had no known contact with a person with a COVID-19 infection, the risk of infection is very low. If you are worried, call your doctor for appropriate advice.

As we have reminded our staff, we also would like to remind you of WHO's recommendations to reduce exposure and transmission by following hand and respiratory hygiene:

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



ESH management has decided for the time being **to put all upcoming school trips on hold**. We will review each trip case by case and keep you informed of any updates. **The Parent-Teacher meetings scheduled for Monday 2 March and Wednesday 4 March will still go ahead as planned.**

Finally, you are reminded that you should monitor your health and pay attention to any symptoms of fever or respiratory problems, such as shortness of breath or cough. Consult a doctor immediately if these symptoms appear.

Thank you for your attention. Rest assured that 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