



**North Cornwall
Learning Trust**

Working Together for Local Children

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12th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Coronavirus NHS Advice

I am writing to reassure you that trust schools are following the advice of Public Health England (PHE) and the Local Authority to ensure the health of our whole community, including pupils and staff. This advice is reviewed daily. We will of course contact you immediately should the situation change.

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCov) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China. The Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England are carefully monitoring the coronavirus situation and have published information and advice for the public. As the situation is rapidly developing, please check the online advice for the latest and most up-to-date information

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Public health experts have been giving out lots of advice to try to stop the spread of the virus. The BBC website provides excellent graphics and a useful video to demonstrate how to wash hands effectively. The key advice is:

- Wash hands with soap and hot water for 20 seconds or use a sanitizer gel (this must be at least 60% alcohol to be effective)
- Use a tissue for coughs and sneezes, then dispose of the tissue in the nearest bin. If you don't have a tissue sneeze into the crook of your arm. (Catch it. Bin it. Kill it.)
- Avoid touching your nose, eyes and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

Staff will, when relevant, take the opportunity to remind pupils about these simple prevention measures. Premises staff will make sure soap and hot water are always available in toilet areas and I ask that at home you impress upon your child the need to adopt these sensible steps.

What if my child shows symptoms?

If you think you or your children might have the virus, these are the symptoms to look out for:

Fever and tiredness, cough, breathing difficulties and muscle pain

What should I do if I or my child feels unwell?

The advice is clear, ring 111 do NOT go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You may be asked to stay at home or keep your child off school. Please listen and act on advice.

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Should I send my child to school?

Yes, unless they're unwell or have been advised to self-isolate. The safety, welfare and wellbeing of everyone in our school community is our primary concern.

Please also be aware that media speculation is rife about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and not everything you read in the newspapers and online is accurate. At the present time, there's a low risk for anyone attending our schools.

SATs and GCSE exams 2020

Ofqual, the government's exam regulator, recognises that pupils, parents/carers, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on SATs in May and the 2020 summer GCSE exam series. Ofqual's advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal.

Their overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum. It is still many weeks until exams start, Ofqual will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Lawrence', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Lawrence
Chief Executive Officer