

13th March 2020

RE: The Cottesloe School

Dear Parent / Carer

As you know the government has announced some changes in the way that the Coronavirus will be tackled. The most significant change is the advice around self-isolation for general symptoms related to the virus.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection

Key messages

- if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started.
- this action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious.
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home.
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home.
- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible.
- sleep alone, if that is possible.
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water.
- stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible.
- you do not need to call NHS111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Source <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child has **any of the above symptoms** please follow the advice above and report their absence to either the student absence line on 01296 689720 or via email at studentabsence@cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk.

We have established a working group which meets daily, to consider the risks posed by any potential outbreak locally. Two factors are central to the planning. Firstly, the health and well-being of staff, students and the wider community. Secondly, the continuity of education, especially for those preparing for examinations in Year 11 and 13.



Students have been addressed in assemblies this week, highlighting the low risk posed to the school's staff and student community by the virus, but also the need to be hygienic and not spread the virus amongst our wider community, where there are more vulnerable people. Posters are prominently displayed around the school to promote good hygiene. We have also encouraged students to ask questions if they are unsure and to be responsible. Needless to say, we have significantly increased or cleaning and monitoring of facilities, for example, checking for cleanliness and provision of soap.

We have met with staff and begun plans for continuing learning should a full or partial closure be necessary. Students have been asked to ensure that they have full access to ShowMyHomework as this would be the major platform we use for providing learning resources in the event of any closure. Please can you inform us if you do not have access to the internet or there is an issue with your child/parent logins to ShowMyHomework via office@cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk

Many subjects use online platforms like google classroom, MyMaths, etc. and a variety of external websites for resources. All staff are ensuring that students in their classes have access to the necessary usernames/passwords to enable distance learning to continue. In the event of a partial closure, face to face learning would be prioritised for those students in Year 11 or 13.

The main public examination season is approaching and we are currently making plans to ensure all exams go ahead as normal. Part of our planning is the recruitment of additional invigilators should we need to create smaller groups or allow more space between each student. The latest advice from Ofqual is to continue as normal and we will continue to follow their guidance.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Jones
Headteacher

