

17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you following the government's new guidance issued yesterday (16th March) concerning coronavirus (COVID 19). The new guidance is as follows:

If anyone in your household develops any of the symptoms of coronavirus however mild, then **all household members** must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period. (See [ending isolation](#) section for more information)

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature (you feel hot to touch on your chest or back)

We will contact you with any concerns about the welfare of your child and monitor the appearance of any symptoms during the school day.

Will the school need to close?

We continue to follow government guidance on keeping the school open during this period of Coronavirus (COVID19) outbreak. However, I want to let you know what we are planning in case of closure.

- It is a possibility that the government will decide that all schools must close for a set period of time as part of the 'delay' phase of responding to the Coronavirus.
- We may need to close all or part of the school if we do not have enough staff to keep children safe or if we need to deep clean the premises. We have contingency plans in place to respond to each of these possibilities which we will communicate to you as needed.
- We have cancelled all offsite visits and non-essential visitors to the school. This includes all parent events and meetings. You can still contact the class teams by using their class mobile phones.

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DISCOVERY ACADEMY

Vernons Lane, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV11 5SS

Telephone: 024 7710 3370

Email: discovery.office@macintyreacademies.org Website: www.thediscoveryacademy.org



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What happens if the school closes?

As soon as we know that the school needs to close we will alert you via a text message and post updates on our website. (We will use the same communication channels to inform you when we reopen)

We have already started planning work for your children to do at home. We will be prioritising our examination timetable first.

Please can you text the class phone to advise us whether you have the following:

- **Does your child have access to a computer at home? YES NO**
- **Does your child have access to the internet at home? YES NO**

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. **There are currently no plans to close.**

I am aware that the situation is changing daily and will keep you informed of changes.

If you have any concerns at all, please contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team on the following numbers.

	Telephone Number	Area
Matthew Pike	07494 457314	Students & Staffing
Emily Bott	07852 436758	Students & Staffing
Chris Harlan-Marks	07415 467774	Students & Staffing
Anna Mullis	07508 674854	Students & Staffing
Lorraine Nicholls	07377 863354	Safeguarding
Jo Robinson	07494 715225	Building & Finance

Yours sincerely

Matthew Pike
Principal

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A reminder of the key Coronavirus Advice for public (COVID 19) from
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

This guidance is intended for:

- people with symptoms that may be caused by coronavirus, and do not require hospital treatment, who must remain at home until they are well
- those living in households with someone who shows symptoms that may be caused by coronavirus

The main messages are:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started.
- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period. (See [ending isolation](#) section for more information)
- if you can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period
- if you cannot move vulnerable people out of your home, stay away from them as much as possible
- Those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) are advised to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>
- If you have coronavirus symptoms:
 - do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
 - you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home
 - testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home and consider what can be done for vulnerable people in the household

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- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
- if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

Updated 16.03.2020

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