

Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the latest government guidance issued yesterday Thursday 12th March which announced that the UK position has now moved from 'contain' phase into 'delay' phase in response to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

Schools will remain open and MacIntyre Academies will continue to follow advice from Department of Education and Public Health England and to keep things as consistent as possible and avoiding panic in our school community.

Advice for the general public has now changed and we are asking all pupils, staff and families to follow the guidance to stay at home and self-isolate for 7 days if you have symptoms of Coronavirus. In these circumstances, please do not send your child into school.

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

The government guidance is as follows:

- 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.
- The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:
 - new continuous cough and/or
 - high temperature (37.5 degrees Celsius or above)NB - for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection
- 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
- Ending self-isolation: You should remain at home until 7 days after the onset of your symptoms. After 7 days, if you feel better and no longer have a high temperature, you can return to your normal routine. If you have not had any signs of improvement and have not already sought medical advice, you should contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.
- Cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean you must continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days.

The full set of advice can be found here: <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>

We will continue to highlight in school the importance of high standards of hygiene and hand-washing with these key messages:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water, or alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it: Cover cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in a bin
- People who feel unwell should stay at home

Visitors to the school will be asked to confirm they do not have any symptoms and wash their hands on arrival.

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 me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. H.', written in a cursive style.

Principal
Discovery Academy