

Coronavirus advice for Head Teachers and Heads of Centres

Version 1: 28.02.2020

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS ADVICE

NHS Scotland has issued guidance on the coronavirus (COVID-19), which the council is sharing with services and the public. The only advice which should be followed is regularly updated at www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus or via NHS Lanarkshire's dedicated web page at www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/coronavirus. These websites will be updated frequently with the latest guidance. You should not rely on information from any other source including news websites.

The key advice on protecting yourself and others from any respiratory virus is to:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue.
- To kill germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.

These good hygiene practices should be promoted among pupils and staff in your school.

It is important to understand that Scotland is well prepared for these types of outbreak and to follow official advice from public health experts.

Common symptoms of the virus include: high temperature or fever; cough; shortness of breath.

However, this is peak season for respiratory and flu-like illness. There will be cases of people presenting with symptoms of cough, fever and shortness of breath, but these are unlikely to be novel coronavirus.

Face masks for the general public, pupils or students, or staff are **not** recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments.

There are currently two categories of areas where people are at risk of getting coronavirus.

Category 1 areas

- Iran
- Daegu or Cheongdo regions of South Korea
- Any of the following towns in the Veneto or Lombardy regions of Northern Italy: Bertinico, Castelgerundo, Castiglione D'Adda, Codogno, Fombio, Maleo, San Fiorano, Somaglia, Terranova dei Passerini, Vo.
- Wuhan city and Hubei province, China

Category 2 areas

- Cambodia
- Rest of China
- Hong Kong
- Northern Italy outside of category 1 towns
- Japan
- Laos

- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Rest of South Korea
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

Please visit www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus for an updated list of Category 1 and Category 2 countries as this is likely to change over the coming days and weeks.

Visited or travelled through a Category 1 area?

If someone has symptoms who has visited Hubei province including Wuhan in China they should phone their GP or NHS 24. They should not go to their GP practice in person or to hospital.

If someone has symptoms who has visited any other category 1 area and have returned *on or after February 19*, they should phone their GP practice or NHS 24. They should not go to their GP practice in person or to hospital.

If someone does not have symptoms but has returned *in the last 14 days* from Wuhan or Hubei province, or has returned on or after February 19 from any other category 1 area, they should stay indoors and avoid contact with others where possible

People returning to the UK from category 1 areas are advised to stay indoors and avoid contact with others, where possible, for 14 days. If they develop the virus symptoms within 14 days, they should phone their GP or NHS 24 (phone 111). They should not visit their GP or a hospital.

Visited or travelled through a Category 2 area?

If someone has symptoms who has visited Northern Italy, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos or Myanmar and have returned *on or after February 19* they should get immediate medical attention by phoning their GP or NHS24. They should not go to their GP or a hospital in person.

If someone has symptoms within *14 days of travelling* to any other Category 2 area, they should phone their GP or NHS 24. They should not visit their GP or a hospital in person.

If someone has no symptoms and has returned from Northern Italy, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos or Myanmar then they should go about their normal business. However, if they become unwell *after February 19* they should follow the advice for those with symptoms.

If someone has no symptoms and has returned from any other Category 2 area they should go about their normal business. If they become unwell within 14 days of their return they should follow the advice for people with symptoms.

If someone has stayed at the Costa Adeje Palace Hotel in Tenerife *on or after February 17* and has symptoms they should seek immediate medical advice by phoning their GP or NHS 24. They should not visit their GP or a hospital in person.

If you become aware or are informed of any pupil or member of staff who has either visited a Category 1 area or who has displayed symptoms having visited a Category 2 area as per the description above, you must **immediately** email COVID19@northlan.gov.uk and inform the appropriate Education and Families senior manager or head of service by telephone. You are not required to contact NHS Lanarkshire's health protection or public health teams; this will be done centrally.

You should not make any decisions about containment measures, sending pupils home or temporary closure until you have had this conversation with senior management. The appropriate senior manager or head of service will provide advice based on Health Protection Scotland's guidance.

You do **not** need to make contact about anyone who has visited a Category 2 area and who does not display symptoms, or who has flu-like symptoms but has not travelled to any of the areas within Category 1 and Category 2.

School trips

If a school trip has been arranged to an area that is not listed in Category 1 or Category 2, continue as normal.

If a school trip has been arranged or has already taken place to an area identified in Category 1 or Category 2, please contact your relevant education officer or head of service as soon as possible.

This is the advice for any staff or parents who contact the school with concerns:

The council is working with NHS Lanarkshire and any updates on the virus will be shared with our staff and residents.

For the latest information and advice, go to <https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

You can also follow @NHS24 on Twitter and Facebook.

Finally, it is likely that this advice will be updated and any updates will be issued to you.

**Derek Brown
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