

St Saviour's & St Olave's School

An 11-18 Church of England Girls' School

HEADTEACHER: CATHERINE MAY BSC (HONS) MBA

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27th February 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Re: Coronavirus: Advice & Guidance

Given the recent news and increased concern over the outbreak of novel Coronavirus in Italy and European countries, reports of cases in the UK and school closures, we are writing to share some information and advice which all schools have received from Public Health England and the Department for Education.

We take the health and safety of our school community very seriously and there is currently no cause for concern at St Saviour's & St Olave's. We recognise that the headlines can be very worrying, but please be assured we are following the advice and guidance of Public Health England and the DfE. Please refer to the guidance below:

What is Coronavirus?

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020. The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 and 14 days.

The following symptoms may develop after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

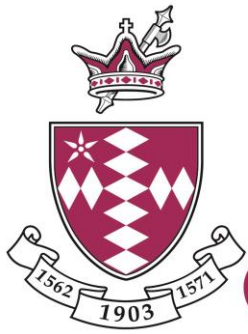
Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

How COVID-19 is spread

Spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person.

There are 2 routes by which people could become infected:

- droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes containing the virus secretions can be directly transferred or inhaled by others nearby (within 2 metres)



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- by touching a surface or object that has been contaminated with infected secretions and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

Preventing spread of infection

Anyone can follow these general principles to help prevent the spread of infection, including:

- washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport.
- students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin.
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. **Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.**

More information can be found on the Public Health England and NHS UK websites, including detailed information on the Category 1 (high risk) and Category 2 (moderate risk) countries and areas of travel.

We will ensure there is soap in all toilets at school and students are welcome to bring hand sanitiser to school for personal use. Should you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We will keep you informed on any developments.

Yours sincerely

Catherine May
Headteacher