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Public Health Advice to Schools regarding Coronavirus

Dear Headteacher,

Cheshire East Council has received a number of inquiries from schools regarding the issue of families with children returning from holidays overseas and the potential risk of spreading coronavirus.

This communication is to advise headteachers, governors and parents to refer to Department of Health guidance which is regularly updated.

There are two specific circumstances to consider:

The **first** is where a family member is unwell following return from a trip overseas to one of the heightened risk countries (see below).

In this case the family should not bring their child into school but seek advice from the freephone helpline NHS 111.

The **second** circumstance is where a family has returned from one of the heightened risk countries but have no symptoms of illness. It may be helpful for the family to seek guidance from NHS 111, but they can return to school.

We would emphasise NHS advice to encourage people to adopt good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene to prevent the risk of infection and a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughs and sneezes.

Public Health England advice to travellers:

Travellers from Wuhan and Hubei Province

If you have travelled from Wuhan or Hubei Province to the UK in the last 14 days you should immediately:

- *Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu*
- *Call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the area*

Please follow this advice even if you do not have symptoms of the virus.

Travellers from other parts of China and other specified areas

This advice applies to travellers who have returned to the UK from the following areas:

- *China*
- *Thailand*
- *Japan*
- *Republic of Korea*
- *Hong Kong*
- *Taiwan*
- *Singapore*
- *Malaysia*
- *Macau*

If you have returned to the UK from any of these areas in the last 14 days and develop symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, you should immediately:

- *Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu*
- *Call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the country.*

Please follow this advice even if your symptoms are minor.

What this means in practice:

We are asking people to take simple, common-sense steps to avoid close contact with other people as much as possible, like they would with other flu viruses.

This means remaining at home for 14 days after arriving from Wuhan or Hubei Province (or elsewhere in China if you have symptoms) and not going to work, school or public areas.

Where possible, you should avoid having visitors to your home, but it is ok for friends, family or delivery drivers to drop off food.

For further information, visit the PHE website at: www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public#situation-in-the-uk

ENDS

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