



12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Coronavirus concerns

Further to the Covid-19 guidance that I sent out last week, I wish to make you aware of information provided to us by Public Health England and Haringey Local Authority. We intend to periodically provide updates to parents and post information on the School Website.

## Travel

Public Health England advice is that anyone who has been to a Category 1 area in the last 14 days **must self-isolate**. Anyone who has been to a Category 2 area in the last 14 days does not need to self-isolate **unless they are symptomatic**. We have provided the current list of Category 1 and Category 2 areas at the end of this letter. Please be aware that this list may change if the pandemic develops further.

As a school community, we are asking if you can inform us if your child, or a member of the family who has contact with your child, has travelled, or is intending to travel overseas. This will enable us to continue to assess the risk to our school community as a whole. This can be done by emailing [admin@gladesmore.com](mailto:admin@gladesmore.com) with your child's full name and details of any travel. This is **critically important** if the travel involves Category 1 or 2 areas. We encourage parents and carers to check and follow guidance provided by Public Health England - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

## Implications of Covid-19 for Gladesmore

Public Health England advice for educational settings, **as of 11<sup>th</sup> March**, states that there are no restrictions or control measures required whilst a pupil or member of staff is being **tested** for suspected Covid-19. There is no requirement for the School to close, send other children home or put other measures in place, other than cleaning specific areas and disposing of waste.

Were there to be a confirmed case, Public Health England advice states, "In most cases, closure of the childcare or education setting will be unnecessary but this will be a local decision based on various factors such as establishment size and pupil mixing." The Public Health England Protection team will be in touch with the School, carrying out necessary assessments and giving advice. They will also identify who has had "contact" (which will inevitably include



pupils and staff within the school), and advise those people about the necessary steps to take, which may include self-isolation.

However, if we did have a confirmed case, the reality is that a 'deep clean' of most areas of the School would be required. It is likely that the logistics of a deep clean would require a temporary closure of the School. We are aware that if the pandemic situation develops further, it is possible that a local decision may be taken to close the school for a prolonged period. If this occurs the school will inform parents/carers at the earliest opportunity.

A small number of children may be more vulnerable to the effects of Covid-19. Those with a weak heart or with severe respiratory / breathing conditions for example. In such situations it would be helpful for the school to be informed of this and parents are recommended to be particularly cautious. If a pupil or staff member is confirmed as having Covid-19, the School will disseminate this information, enabling parents to make an informed decision based on risk as they perceive it.

It is also possible that if there are confirmed cases in the locality, some staff may be required to stay at home to look after their children should their school(s) close. This could have a knock-on impact on Gladesmore.

The School will, as far as is reasonably possible, continue with educational provision during any period of closure. We will post study materials on 'Show My Homework' to enable pupils to gain access to learning materials if they are required to stay home. Staff are preparing packs of learning materials in case they are needed.

The School would also be grateful if you would let us know if your workplace sends you home as a result of a suspected case of Covid-19. This also can be done by completing the attached form or by emailing [admin@gladesmore.com](mailto:admin@gladesmore.com).

### **In summary:**

We kindly ask that parents take sensible preventative measures if they, their child or another close family member have been, or do come into in contact with suspected cases or confirmed cases.

- If someone returns from a category 1 country, **they have to self-isolate even if they appear well.**
- If someone returns from a Category 2 country, **they should self-isolate if they show symptoms.**

<b>Category 1 countries/areas</b>	<b>Category 2 countries/areas</b>
Wuhan city and Hubei Province (China,)	Cambodia
Iran	China*
Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea)	Hong Kong
Any area within Italy under containment measures	Italy*
	Japan
	Laos
	Macau
	Malaysia
	Myanmar
	Republic of Korea*
	Singapore
	Taiwan
	Thailand
	Vietnam

**Covid-19 Disclaimer: Gladesmore Community School is not a medical authority and this advice must be read in that context.**

I understand that there is a lot of information to take in. I do hope this information is helpful.

If you fear that you may have symptoms of coronavirus, you can call **NHS 111** for advice.

Our thoughts go out to all those affected.

Yours sincerely

Tony Hartney CBE

