



Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you may be aware a case of COVID-19 (also known as coronavirus) has been confirmed in Tameside. Clearly this is a concerning time for residents and parents but I would like to reassure you that the risk to the individuals remains low. I would just like to highlight that it's important we respect and protect patient confidentiality and that knowing the location of the patient does not change the guidance we should follow.

Please be assured that Public Health England (PHE) have been contacting those who have been in close contact with the resident and will advise any individuals or workplaces on any action required. Anyone who is not contacted by PHE does therefore not need to take any action at this time other than following the good general hygiene advice at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

We are working closely with the local authority and PHE and receiving regular updated guidance.

PHE have assessed the risk and confirmed that there is currently no information to suggest that there is any increased health risk to any of boroughs school pupils or staff and no public health reason for any schools to close or for staff/pupils not to attend.

We will of course keep you updated of any changes to the situation or new guidance and advice.

Of those who catch coronavirus, the great majority will have a mild-to-moderate illness – similar to flu. However, we do need to protect ourselves and our community – particularly older people and those with pre-existing health conditions. A simple and effective way to protect yourself and others from coronavirus is by making sure you wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If you are unwell make sure you catch your coughs and sneezes in a tissue, throw the tissues away, then wash your hands.

For those that think they might have coronavirus, have been to a country or area with a high risk of coronavirus, or been in close contact with someone with coronavirus, advice is to please use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19 . If they need to speak to someone call **NHS 111** – please don't go to your doctor, pharmacist or hospital as you could pass the infection to others.

You will also find plenty of advice and guidance online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

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