



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams

Registered Address: Norton Hill School, Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4AD
Company No: 7365778

5th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now receiving daily updates from Public Health England about the impact of Coronavirus and the actions we should be taking in schools. There is now a greater risk of the virus spreading throughout the UK and Public Health England and other government departments are preparing for a range of scenarios.

The current advice to schools is that they remain open and that all children and staff should attend as normal. Schools are not required to close, even if children or staff present symptoms in line with those associated with the illness. **The Department for Education has made it very clear that schools can only close if directed to do so by Public Health England.** If any school within the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership are required to close, you will be notified in the usual manner, but also via the MNSP web site – www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

The most effective action we can all take is to wash our hands more regularly and for longer periods of time. This basic action is thought to reduce the spread of the virus by up to 80%. I have sent posters home from Public Health England and had them displayed in all schools to remind children, staff and visitors to wash their hands regularly and thoroughly.

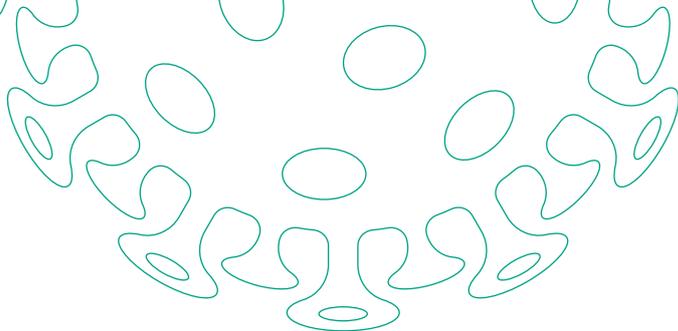
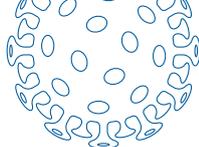
If the advice changes and schools within the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership are required to close, we will be providing learning resources via Google Classroom or through work packs. We also plan to deliver key learning topics via Skype or through other forms of digital media, so that examination groups in secondary schools can continue to receive some teacher support with their learning.

Thank you for your support to date.

Yours sincerely

Alun Williams
CEO





Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks & sport activities



Before cooking & eating



On arrival at any childcare or educational setting



After using the toilet



Before leaving home



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools

What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19. Parents can visit **NHS.UK** to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Wuhan and Hubei Province in China should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days. See **NHS.UK** for advice on coronavirus.

If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately

