

Coronavirus FAQs for PARENTS

16 March 2020

This FAQ document has been produced from numerous sources. All sources are reputable so the information given is considered to be correct.

1. About the virus

What is coronavirus and should I be concerned?

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Generally, coronavirus 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.

What are the signs and symptoms of this new virus?

The symptoms of this new coronavirus (COVID-19) include cough, fever, shortness of breath, or flu-like symptoms

How does this new coronavirus spread – I'm concerned I could catch it?

Because it's a new illness, we do not know exactly how it spreads from person to person, but similar viruses spread by cough droplets or sneeze droplets. These droplets fall on people in the vicinity and can be directly inhaled or picked up on the hands and transferred when someone touches their face. How long any respiratory virus survives will depend on a number of factors; for example:

- What surface the virus is on.
- Differences in temperature and humidity.
- Exposure to cleaning products.

Under most circumstances, the amount of infectious virus on any contaminated surfaces is likely to have decreased significantly by 24 hours, and even more so by 48 hours.

What is the incubation period for the coronavirus?

It takes five days on average to start showing the symptoms, scientists have said, but some people will get symptoms much later than this. The incubation period lasts up to 14 days, the World Health Organization (WHO) says. Knowing and understanding the incubation period is very important. It allows doctors and health authorities to introduce more effective ways to control the spread of the virus.

2. LNS's planning and response

What is LNS doing to plan and keep people informed during the current coronavirus outbreak?

Our policy is to follow the advice from Public Health England (PHE), Department for Education (DfE) and the NHS.

We will continue to share information with staff, students and parents.

Has LNS increased the frequency of cleaning on site?

We have completed a deep clean on site and continued with daily cleaning. Cleaning is focused on surfaces, toilets and door handles.

What will happen if we have a lot of staff who are off sick or have been told to self-isolate?

The governors have decided to keep the school open for as long as possible. If staff numbers drop to below 60%, the school would have to close until staff are well enough to return to work. Reduction in staff numbers would also mean classes will have to double up. If the student population falls below 50%, the school will close and move to online lessons.

How will we be able to continue with teaching and assessing if LNS closes?

Live lessons will take place via Zoom which is an online video conferencing app. ALL students must have access to a laptop/desktop and internet to access lessons. They must also be submitting homework via their school email accounts. We will be running a tester morning on Friday 20th March (tbc). Timetables are currently be prepared in event of school closure.

What will happen to GCSE exams if there is a disruption or the school has to be closed?

Ofqual's advice at this time is to **continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal**. Ofqual continues to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum.

Ofqual have issued a **brief statement** (https://www.gov.uk/government/news/our-statement-on-coronavirus?utm_source=ba246bac-8c21-46f4-aaed-c6775188af8d&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate) and updated their guidance, saying:

"We are working closely with awarding organisations and the Department for Education to consider how to manage any particular risks to the smooth running of exams and assessments should there be a widespread outbreak of coronavirus.

We will update our existing guidance to reflect any specific arrangements schools and colleges should put in place if required".

The DfE have also opened a Coronavirus helpline, for centres, parents and students:

- **0800 046 8687**
- **DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk**

Both AQA and Edexcel have special coronavirus updates pages:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus->

[updates?_cldee=ZXhhbXMub2ZmaWNlckBsYWR5bmFmaXNhLm9yZW%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-ab574704863ee911a83a000d3a45a240-6f0b490fa5104a69be5c7b8d3d9f1e54&esid=cbd0846d-cb53-ea11-a812-000d3a49daf7](https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus-updates?_cldee=ZXhhbXMub2ZmaWNlckBsYWR5bmFmaXNhLm9yZW%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-ab574704863ee911a83a000d3a45a240-6f0b490fa5104a69be5c7b8d3d9f1e54&esid=cbd0846d-cb53-ea11-a812-000d3a49daf7)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/news-and-media.news.html?article=/content/demo/en/news-policy/press-releases/2020/update-from-pearson-regarding-the-covid-19-coronavirus-outbreak>

Year 11 students have been given their individual statement of entries today as well as the scheduled timetable for GCSE exams. Please see attached. In addition a contingency day is planned every year. This year's contingency day **Wednesday 24th June**, under normal circumstances students should not book any travel before this date.

In light of the above information I strongly advise not to make any travel plans for the Summer until we receive further clarification from the exam boards.

3. Taking precautions

What precautionary measures can help stop the spread of the virus?

Advice from the NHS and Public Health England states that following hygiene precautions such as thoroughly washing hands with soap and water, covering your mouth and nose with a tissue if you cough or sneeze and promptly disposing of the tissues into a bin, and keeping surfaces clean, are the best ways to avoid catching or spreading the virus.

Is hand sanitiser effective?

The best way to protect yourself from infections like coronavirus is to regularly wash your hands with soap and water. If soap or water aren't available and your hands are visibly clean, then sanitiser gel can be used.

Should people wear face masks to protect themselves from infection?

Public Health England has said it does not "recommend the use of face masks as a means of protection from coronavirus". It says there is very little evidence of widespread benefit from their use outside of clinical settings.

Face masks play a very important role in clinical settings, such as hospitals but there's very little evidence of widespread benefit from their use outside of these clinical settings. Facemasks must be worn correctly, changed frequently, removed properly and disposed of safely in order to be effective.

I live with someone who has had a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus. What should I do?

Any student or sibling of a student who is showing signs of Coronavirus MUST remain at home for 7 days. If it is a confirmed case, the school will automatically close for a period of 14 days. Further advice can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

How do students/parents report coronavirus-related absence and how will registers be marked?

Students who are advised to self-isolate or who test positive for Covid-19 should notify the school office.

Parents who have chosen to self-isolate their children as a precautionary measure will not be penalized. They will be marked as absent but authorised. **Wherever possible**, students will be provided with work to complete at home.

5. Additional information

You may refer to the following sites for the latest official information and guidance:

NHS: [Coronavirus information](#)

Public Health England: [Coronavirus Q&A](#)

Public Health England: [Self-isolation information](#)

UK Government: [Travel advice](#)

UK Government: [Guidance for educational settings](#)

UK Government: [Find out the steps the UK government is taking](#)

UK Government: Stay at Home : <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

World Health Organization: [Find out more about Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)