



Dear Parents and Carers

## Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update

I am sure that you will be asking what our academies are doing about coronavirus and what we would do if a case of coronavirus/COVID-19 was confirmed locally or in one of our academies.

I want to keep you informed of what we are doing and how we are preparing. We will follow the advice of the Department for Education and Public Health England. We are managing the risk and we have to be very careful about the potential consequences of any decisions that we make.

We will continue as normal in our academies - unless we are specifically told to close by Public Health England. You can help manage that risk by continuing to encourage good hygiene and getting children to regularly wash their hands. They should also cover their mouths if they have a cough and use and throw away tissues.

At present, the academy remains open. The instruction to schools is that they are to remain open unless there is an instruction to close from Public Health England and the DFE. Should the guidance change, we will update parents/carers.

We are aware that the government has announced that if an individual were to develop a **new** continuous cough and/or a high temperature, that they should stay at home and not leave the house for 7 days from when the symptoms started. The full guidance can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ut7tx9m> and is summarised later in this letter. If your child were to develop these symptoms, then please follow this guidance, and let the academy know using our normal absence procedures. We are mindful that not all absences will be related to COVID19 symptoms, and our follow up calls and home visits will take this into account.

We will be in touch regarding other academy events which are due to take place next week to inform you if they need to be cancelled/postponed. If you have not already downloaded our parent app (MyEd) then please download this from your app store so that you can be kept up to date. If you are aware that your contact details need updating, then please update these by phoning the academy or emailing [enquiries@cam.coop](mailto:enquiries@cam.coop)

We don't want students to miss any lessons and we don't want to put parents under more stress having to make childcare arrangements. Our academies are also very aware that if we

close for any reason, we may be putting children at risk in a different way when so many parents and carers have to go to work.

Our cleaning staff will wipe down surfaces and clean toilets thoroughly as part of the normal cleaning routine. This is why we emphasise the importance of good hygiene. We are teaching pupils, in an age-appropriate way, about risk, being responsible and doing our best to keep everyone safe.

## What you should do

If your child is ill and needs to stay off school, please inform the academy as normal. If you think that this may be coronavirus, follow the advice of Public Health England and isolate your child at home in a ventilated room, and make sure they have their own towels. You can call 111 for further advice.

If your child has been in contact with someone who is thought to have coronavirus, there is no reason to keep them at home **if they are symptom free** and they should continue to attend school. If they begin to show symptoms, follow the guidance below.

If your child has been in contact with someone with **confirmed** coronavirus, follow Public Health England advice, isolate your child and phone 111.

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at [111.nhs.uk](https://111.nhs.uk). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

## What we will do

If a child in one of our academies or a member of staff is confirmed to have contracted the virus, we will be advised by Public Health England's advice. Currently, the advice is that

schools should not close. If that changes, we will follow all the advice given. At this point, we will move onto “Learn at Home”.

If Coop Academy Manchester has to close, teachers will set and mark work for pupils via the VLE (vle.cam.coop) or Google Classroom and Google Drive. Students are already familiar with these digital platforms as they use them regularly at the academy. Indeed - work and revision materials have always been available for students to access online. In the eventuality of a closure, teachers will upload more resources to these platforms for students to access. We are also working on preparing some paper resources for any students who do not have access to online platforms.

All our schools will also put in place things to enable you and your child to keep in contact with academy staff in case of a safeguarding need. These will be posted on the academy website (cam.coop) if we need to close.

In situations like this, where there are a lot of things that we do not know, it is particularly important that we work together, in the interests of children. We will inform parents and carers through our website, social media, emails and texts, if there are any changes.

The academy may be told that students and staff need to be sent home for only a few days, but we have prepared for that and we will continue to work to support education and safety.

I want to thank you for continuing to work with us and for your support, the safety of our children is the most important thing for us.



Ian Burchett  
Chief Education Officer



Steve Brice  
Principal