



Co-op Academy  
Manchester

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Dear parents and carers

As you will know, Coronavirus is dominating the world news at this time. A few parents have asked for an update, and as you might imagine our students have asked about the situation themselves. The purpose of this communication is simply to assure you that we are closely monitoring the situation and, like every school, are receiving guidance from the Department of Education which is updated daily. We will of course respond to this advice as and when needed. You can view this advice at the following link :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19> (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>)

The recent advice for schools remains in place: 'No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.'

I wanted to reassure you that the academy remains fully open for business as normal, and our normal attendance procedures remain in place alongside national guidance.

The message that is very clearly being communicated from central government is the importance of hygiene. Personal hygiene is the most important way the country can tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more; and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes. The government has today published a set of advice for how the public can support the national response and we have been asked to help by sharing this advice:

- following public health authorities' advice, for example on hand washing
- reducing the impact and spread of misinformation by relying on information from trusted sources, such as that on [www.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk/) (<https://www.nhs.uk/>), [www.nhsinform.scot](https://www.nhsinform.scot/) (<https://www.nhsinform.scot/>), [www.publichealth.hscni.net](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/) (<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>), <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19> (<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19>) and [www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/) (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
- checking and following the latest FCO travel advice when travelling and planning to travel
- ensuring you and your family's vaccinations are up to date as this will help reduce the pressure on the NHS/HSCNI through reducing vaccine-preventable diseases
- checking on elderly or vulnerable family, friends and neighbours
- using NHS 111 (or NHS 24 in Scotland or NHS Direct Wales) (including online, where possible), pharmacies and GPs responsibly, and go to the hospital only when you really need to. This is further explained on the NHS website: [When to go to A&E](https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/when-to-go-to-ae/) (<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/when-to-go-to-ae/>) and [Choose Well Wales](http://www.choosewellwales.org.uk/home) (<http://www.choosewellwales.org.uk/home>)
- being understanding of the pressures the health and social care systems may be under, and receptive to changes that may be needed to the provision of care to you and your family.

- accepting that the advice for managing COVID-19 for most people will be self-isolation at home and simple over-the-counter medicines
- checking for new advice as the situation changes

Please be reassured that this communication is for information only, and that no other action is required at present. Like all schools, we will continue to monitor the situation closely and follow official guidance.

Yours faithfully

**Steve Brice**

Principal