

NC/VM

28 February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Information – Coronavirus

The coronavirus outbreak and subsequent media coverage of the issues related to it have understandably caused some concern and worry among communities. In particular, the potential effect on schools, and the consequential impact on families has been highlighted in different quarters.

The Sheffield UTC Trust is therefore issuing this letter and supporting information to update parents/carers with the latest advice and guidance from the government and other relevant authorities and to outline the approach being taken by the schools. Schools are updated on a daily basis by the Department for Education (DfE) who are liaising with other organisations, such as Public Health England (PHE). In response, schools are monitoring the advice and ensuring that this is followed with in the Trust.

The advice from the DfE is:

- Schools should remain open and keep abreast of latest local, national and international news
- Schools should promote good hygiene, as normal, amongst all people within the UTC community, ensuring hands are washed regularly with soap and water
- Antibacterial gel and soap are utilised
- Good hygiene regarding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands is promoted, as is washing hands every time the toilet is used, before eating and regularly at other times of the day
- **'Catch it, bin it, kill it'** is promoted when coughing and sneezing, so that tissues are used once and then disposed off
- Cleaning regimes within schools use approved products and routines to ensure that areas are cleaned appropriately and thoroughly

The UTCs within Trust are following this advice and working together to ensure that the situation is managed to the best of our abilities. Each UTC holds the health and safety of the students and staff with the utmost importance and parent and carers can be assured that all decisions are taken with the careful consideration of the latest and best advice available.

A useful resource that outlines the DfE's guidance to schools can be found at:

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

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Following the half-term break, and the outbreak within Italy, there has been concern regarding the impact of trips and visits abroad, particularly for those students travelling on a residential abroad.

Schools will always follow the latest guidance and advice from the Government regarding decision-making and will analyse the situation on a regular basis. The guidance is very specific regarding named countries and locations, details of which can be found in the link above.

This link has reference to maps, which identify locations, and gives information that is very targeted to each area.

For example, the maps highlight advice that should be followed for people that have travelled to different parts of Italy.

Furthermore, another useful resource linked to coronavirus and travelling can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

In addition, we have attached a poster that is on display in the UTCs, produced by Public Health England, which provides a handy quick reference guide to coronavirus and the advice for education settings. The Trust will continue to adhere to published guidance and advice and continuously monitor the situation, providing accurate updates as relevant.

It is important to refer to your UTC's published details to ensure that the most reliable, up-to date and accurate information is acted upon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. J. Crew', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nick Crew
Executive Principal

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