

Director of Public Health

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All Head Teachers

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Dear Head Teacher

Coronavirus and Travel to Italy

Yesterday a number of you contacted the County Council with queries about returning from trips to Italy, in light of the recent measures put in place by the Italian Authorities on Coronavirus.

I'm writing to assure you that we checked the location of every school we were made aware of, and none of those schools were within the ten towns which the Italian Authorities have put on quarantine measures. Every school we are aware of which has had a party travelling has been contacted.

I have checked personally with Italian Authorities and Public Health England and the up to date advice on the government's website is the best advice to follow. To summarise this:

1. **IF you were** in any of the specific named towns names on the map at this link you should self-isolate for fourteen days, and call NHS111 **only** if you have any symptoms
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/868103/Map_showing_specified_areas_of_Italy_250220.pdf
 - a. **Advice on self isolation is here**
<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/20/what-is-self-isolation-and-why-is-it-important/>
 - i. The Italian Authorities have implemented specific measures in these towns because of actual cases.

2. **If** you were anywhere else in Northern Italy [whether resident or travelling through] (the areas covered by the orange shaded areas on the map at the link above) but you were **NOT** in any of the specific named towns on the map then
 - a. you do not need to take any action other than, should you develop 'flu-like symptoms (including coughing or fever or shortness of breath) to ring NHS111 and self-isolate immediately
 - b. The Italian Authorities have implemented some measures in these areas largely as a precautionary and preventive measure.
3. **If** you were anywhere else in Italy (the yellow areas on the map) there is no action for you to take at this time

Government has now updated the algorithm with advice on all relevant countries from which people have returned and this can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

Again, the current risk to most people in the UK remains low and we are working to contain the virus.

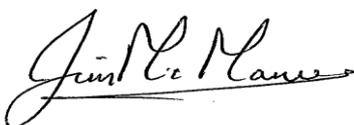
There is no need to consider closing your school unless

- i) you have staff or students who are being tested and advised to self-isolate while being tested **OR**
- ii) you have specific advice from Public Health England or other Public Health Authorities (Director of Public Health, Environmental Health in District Councils) that this is the case.

It is advisable to take public health advice if in doubt. The Public Health England Health Protection Team for your area can be found using this link <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team> or we can be contacted via 01992 556884

The County Council's Communications Team have prepared template statement you can issue to parents and students giving advice and reassurance should you find this helpful. A suggested statement for you to use on your website is attached below.

Yours sincerely



(Prof) Jim McManus
Director of Public Health

Statement for parents and carers

As you will be aware, there has been a lot of information in the news about returning trips to Italy over half term in light of the recent measures put in place by the Italian Authorities on Coronavirus.

We would like to assure you that there is no cause for concern, none of the school trips run by Hertfordshire schools were within the ten towns which the Italian Authorities have put on quarantine measures and Hertfordshire residents remain at low risk.

If you have returned from the quarantines towns and develop flu like symptoms, please stay at home, avoid contact with other people and call NHS111.

Taking basic hygiene precautions remains the best way to reduce the chances of spreading any virus: sneeze or cough into a tissue, bin it, wash your hands frequently and don't touch your face unless you've just washed your hands. Using a normal detergent to clean the surfaces people touch regularly like door handles and lift buttons is also sensible.

Please visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus for the most up to date advice.