



### **Coronavirus Information**

The health and wellbeing of pupils and staff is a priority for Essential Education. The UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) to the public from moderate to high, so we want to ensure our staff are aware of all the latest guidance, where you can access further information and in what circumstances you need to contact us about the virus.

On the 18 March 2020, the Government announced that schools in the UK will close from Friday 21 March until further notice in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Schools, colleges and nurseries will close to help slow the spread of the virus, which will help save lives and protect the most vulnerable. Schools will need to put provision in place for pupils of key coronavirus workers (such as NHS, police, social care and supermarket drivers and teachers) and vulnerable children including pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Inevitably, this will have an impact on the availability of work for our supply staff, which we understand is very concerning. We are liaising with schools on a daily basis and will continue to provide staff for the education providers who are struggling for staff for the continued provision that the Government has asked them to provide for pupils of key workers and vulnerable children.

Any staff who are experiencing financial difficulties during this time should make a Universal Credit application as soon as possible if they haven't already done so.

<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-claim-universal-credit>

### **Information about the virus**

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus. The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 and 14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, it is unlikely that they have been infected.

#### **The symptoms of coronavirus are:**

- a cough
- a high temperature, and
- shortness of breath.

However, if you have these symptoms it does not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

### **Stay at home if you have either:**

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.

### **How long to stay at home?**

- If you have symptoms, stay at home for 7 days.
- If you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms.

If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.

If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

Read the NHS advice about staying at home - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

Urgent advice: Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days

Use the 111 coronavirus service - <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

### **Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.**

Anyone who has been confirmed as being in close contact with a confirmed coronavirus case will need to speak to their Local Health Protection team to confirm if they also need to self-isolate.

Please visit the .Gov website for the contact details of your Local Health Protection team.

<https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>

The following guidance, which was issued for people returning from Category 1 or 2 countries/areas pre-13 March 2020, is still active:

- anyone returning from a Category 1 country/area within the last 14 days must self-isolate for 14 days after they return, and
- anyone returning from a Category 2 country/area within the last 14 days must self-isolate if they develop symptoms.

The .Gov website provides up-to-date information on Category 1 and 2 countries/areas - <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>

### **How it is spread & preventing the spread of infection**

The spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres) with an infected person. These are some of the things you can do to help stop viruses like coronavirus spreading:

#### **DO**

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

#### **DON'T**

- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

### **When to contact us**

You need to get in touch with your Recruitment Consultant immediately if you:

- or anyone in your household, have a continuous cough or high temperature
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result
- have been identified as being a close contact of someone with coronavirus, or
- have visited a Category 1 or 2 country/area in the last 14 days, or have plans to visit a Category 1 or 2 country/area.

### **Further information**

You can keep up-to-date with all the latest information and guidance relating to coronavirus on the following websites:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

please also see the guidance for educational settings and social or community care and residential settings

<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-for-social-or-community-care-and-residential-settings-on-covid-19/guidance-for-social-or-community-care-and-residential-settings-on-covid-19>

## FAQs

### **What should I do if a school has sent everyone home because a member of staff or pupil is being tested for coronavirus?**

Get in touch with your branch to let them know what's happened. They will then make contact with the school to make sure we are kept up-to-date with any developments. Current guidance states that you have to self-isolate if you have been identified as being a close contact of someone with coronavirus, so no action is needed unless the result is confirmed positive.

### **Will I get paid if schools close to reduce the risk of infection?**

If you are a supply worker who works on daily and short-term bookings, unfortunately you will not be entitled to receive any pay if the schools are closed as there will be no work available.

If you are in a long-term supply booking and the school you are placed in closes, it is at the school's discretion whether or not to pay for those days. Please discuss this with your consultant.

### **Should I contact the office if I have any coronavirus symptoms?**

You should contact your branch immediately if you, or anyone in your household, have any of the following symptoms:

- a continuous cough, or
- high temperature.

Please remember, you also need to get in touch with the office if you:

- have been to a Category 1 or 2 country/area in the last 14 days
- you have any plans to visit a Category 1 or 2 country/area
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result, or
- have been identified as being a close contact of someone with coronavirus and advised to self-isolate by your Local Health Protection team.

### **If the schools close, will I be able to get any financial support because I am unable to work?**

You may be eligible to claim Universal Credit if you need financial support as a result of coronavirus. Do not delay in making a claim via the .Gov website at [www.gov.uk/how-to-claim-universal-credit](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-claim-universal-credit) You will not have to go to the jobcentre to claim Universal Credit if you're advised to self-isolate.

If you are already claiming Universal Credit, the amount of Universal Credit you receive changes automatically changes if your take home pay changes.