



Pennine View
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17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

The outbreak of COVID-19 / Coronavirus has been declared a worldwide pandemic. The situation in the United Kingdom is being carefully monitored by the government with daily updates.

We continue to receive daily updates from the government and we follow their advice.

The guidance from the Government (5.30pm -16.3.2020) recommends that schools should stay open. Pubs, theatres and public events should be avoided. It is recommended that some people (see below) should **self-isolate** in order to protect themselves and their families.

As a headteacher and a parent myself I feel it is necessary to share with you the definitions/characteristics of 'underlying health conditions' so that you are able to make an informed decision about whether to send your child to school.

If your child falls into one of the following categories and you wish to keep them at home we will mark their attendance as 'exceptional -agreed'

Conditions / Government Guidance

"We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.

This group includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
 - o chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as **asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**, emphysema or **bronchitis**
 - o chronic heart disease, such as **heart failure**
 - o **chronic kidney disease**
 - o chronic liver disease, such as **hepatitis**
 - o **chronic** neurological conditions, such as **Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS)**, a learning disability or cerebral palsy
 - o **diabetes**



- o problems with your spleen – for example, **sickle cell** disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- o a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such **as HIV and AIDS**, or medicines such as **steroid tablets** or **chemotherapy**
- o being seriously overweight (a BMI of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant”

The above conditions also relate to staff.

Schools are expected to remain open but I cannot guarantee that your child’s usual staff team will be in school so we might need to move your child to a different class.

If staff think your child has a cough or high temperature you will be asked to collect them from school.

If you decide to keep your child at home during this uncertain time you will need to be clear about the reason:

- due to self-isolation from Coronavirus
- due to general seasonal illness
- due to your child’s underlying health risk (if this is the case we will phone home each day because of our attendance systems).

It is very important that you do not send your child to school if they have a new persistent cough or a high temperature over 38 degrees.

If any member of the family has a persistent cough or a high temperature over 38 degrees you will ALL need to isolate for 14 days as a family.

I realise the impact that this new Government advice puts onto families but I encourage you all to take this advice seriously and act accordingly.

Please continue to wash your hands as a precaution.

My thoughts are with all our families at this extremely difficult time.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely,

S. Mulhall

Sarah Mulhall - Headteacher