



from Tom Lawson MA (Oxon), Headmaster

6 March 2020

Dear Parents,

Covid-19 update

Update to travel advice

Based on the BSA's advice at the time, from 13 February we have placed restrictions on pupils returning from travel from several countries, including all of China and Hong Kong.

- Current advice **has now changed** and requires people travelling from **category 2 countries below** to self-isolate **only if they have symptoms**.

Any pupil travelling to - or having contact with people travelling to - a **category 1** area is still required not to return to school until having self-quarantined in the UK for 14 days.

Please be aware that this is the current BSA stance following Public Health England and NHS advice. Travel and quarantine restrictions could still apply if the advice changes, which could happen over the next weeks given the evolving nature of the virus spread. We will, of course, keep parents informed of any changes.

Category 1 Areas

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people immediately if you've travelled to the UK from:

- Hubei province in China in the last 14 days, even if you do not have symptoms
- Iran, lockdown areas in northern Italy* or special care zones in South Korea (Daegu and Cheongdo)

Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do next. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital nor return to school.

[* Italy lockdown areas: Lombardy: Codogno, Castiglione d'Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgerundo and San Fiorano; Veneto: Vo' Euganeo]

Category 2 Areas

- Other parts of mainland **China** or **South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan or Thailand**
- Other parts of **Italy**, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar or Vietnam since 19 February

If you have a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath (even if your symptoms are mild) follow the self-isolation advice above, inform the school medical centre, and do not return to school.

continued

We advise that anyone travelling near areas or people who have been to areas known to have had Covid-19 issues to take all sensible precautions and avoid close contact or unhygienic settings. Please keep us informed of your travel plans (via your hsm at the College or the reception at St Andrew's) and do not return to school with symptoms of any sort before contacting the medical centre for advice.

-Eastbourne College: medical@eastbourne-college.co.uk

-St Andrew's Prep: medical@standrewsprep.co.uk

Fixtures and trips

Both schools have trips in the Easter holidays planned for various destinations. Trip organisers are assessing risk based on the nature and destination of the trip and the changing situation of virus spread in different countries. Some may have to be cancelled or altered. Trip organisers will shortly be in touch with those involved if there is any change to existing plans.

School status – UK situation

Some other regional schools have cancelled fixtures for both weather and cautionary reasons. Eastbourne College and St Andrew's remain open and continue to host and go to fixtures, as is government advice. We are taking measures to assess the risk posed by visitors and contact with other schools, increasing our hygiene advice and taking other sensible precautions but otherwise operating as normal.

We are aware that, at any time, the spread of the virus in the UK could affect policy and public health advice could change.

Contingencies

We will continue to plan for all contingencies, including those relating to supporting pupils with academic work if they cannot come to school. We are also monitoring the arrangements exam boards are making should public exams be disrupted. We will do all we can to plan for the worst but hope for the best, and be mindful of the distress to pupils and their families at this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

Tom NM Lawson
Headmaster, Eastbourne College

Gareth EB Jones
Headmaster, St Andrew's Prep