



Part One - Answers to FAQs from Public Health England (PHE)

If I live in West Sussex or Surrey am I at extra risk because of the recent cases?

- We (PHE) ensure that someone with coronavirus doesn't put others at risk by treating them in isolation and carefully investigating who they had close contact with through contact tracing.
- [Contact tracing is a fundamental part of outbreak control](#) that's used by public health professionals around the world.
- If a person tests positive for coronavirus, we speak to the patient to identify anyone who has had close contact with them during the time that they are considered to be infectious and make every effort to find these people as soon as possible.
- Once we have contacted them, we can then give them the advice they need. If they are in groups considered to be a higher risk, we make sure that we follow up with them daily to see how they are. If they become unwell, we are then able to assess them quickly and take appropriate action.

What does self-isolation mean for people who don't have symptoms?

- Just like when you have the flu, individuals should remain at home and should not go to work, school or public areas. Where possible, individuals should avoid having visitors to their home, but it is ok for friends, family or delivery drivers to drop off food. Individuals should not use public transport or taxis until 14 days after their return from Wuhan.
- Individuals should monitor their symptoms and call NHS 111 (or your national alternative) if they develop any of the following symptoms – fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

PHE advice on public events

- Most people can continue to go to work, school and other public places and only need to stay away (self-isolate) if they have been advised by NHS 111 or a medical professional.
- The virus is spread person-to-person and as the individual is receiving treatment at a specialist centre that immediate risk has been reduced.
- PHE are tracing all contacts of the case and will advise people on any actions they need to take including in some cases self-isolation.
- Everyone else should continue as normal but take care to follow public health advice to help reduce the risk of infection <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- For more info on common questions I would look at our Q&A blog which is continually updated <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Do I need to avoid public places?

- Most people can continue to go to work, school and other public places.
- You only need to stay away from public places (self-isolate) if advised to by the 111 online coronavirus service or a medical professional.
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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Part Two - Answers to some FAQs specific to Oathall

Will Oathall issue hand sanitisers to staff & students?

The current advice to schools is to promote the message about frequent handwashing. We have not been advised to provide hand sanitisers.

Are you changing your cleaning routines?

We have not been advised to make any changes to cleaning routines. As a precaution we are paying particular attention to surfaces which are handled regularly such as door handles and handrails.

Will you tell us if a member of the school community is a risk to others?

If someone is identified as being a risk, we will follow the advice that we are given by the authorities. On the advice provided by PHE we cannot go into any details about individuals as patient confidentiality is paramount. We are in regular contact with health officials and the local authority is doing everything it can to advise schools on the safest course of action.

If the school has to close what will happen?

We will only close the school if we are advised to do so by the authorities. We already have plans for school closures in the event of bad weather or flu outbreaks – these plans are now under review in the light of coronavirus. We have access to a number of online resources that students will be able to use. In this eventuality we will contact parents and students about the arrangements for continuing to educate students at home. The education of our students continues to be our priority.

What will happen if there are lots of teachers absent from school?

The probability is that we would follow advice, review existing plans and act accordingly. This might involve asking particular year groups to remain at home, teaching larger class sizes, shortening the school day or closing the school.

What will happen if the school closes and there are public exams?

In this situation we will follow the advice of the DFE and the [Joint Council of Qualifications](#) who oversee all exam arrangements.