

Media Release

Coronavirus update

Guernsey has responded in a calm and proportionate way to the situation regarding the Grammar School Ski trip based on the island's specific circumstances. Public Health sought and followed the advice of Public Health England.

The following information/advice has been collated today.

- There is no need for the Grammar School to do anything in addition to their usual cleaning routine at this stage
- The school is managing the absence of teachers and pupils in accordance with their normal procedures. There is no disruption to lessons at this stage
- Teachers and pupils will need to self-isolate until the results of their tests are received and they are advised by Public Health that they may return.
- Teachers will be paid for this period of self-isolation.
- Today Public Health Services has arranged the testing of 29 people associated with the school trip. This is a mixture of students and staff.
- The test results normally take around 48 hrs to process. There may be some delay to this due to laboratory capacity in the UK.
- If children self-isolating need to be looked after by carers / parents / guardians it will be up to their employers' discretion whether they will be paid for this time off.
- There is no need for siblings/family members to stay at home at this stage. This is in line with Public Health England guidance as at 25 February 2020. This info is on gov.gg/coronavirus
- There is no need for people on the Condor boat / other who came into contact with the children/staff to be worried at this stage.
- Advice for anyone who has travelled to an affected area is on line at gov.gg/coronavirus. Areas of travel are categorised as Group A and B countries / areas. Advice for returning travellers is outlined on gov.gg/coronavirus for these areas.
- Ports and harbour staff have been provided with guidance on the management of suspected cases. Staff have also received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) fit training. Information is displayed on posters at the ports to advise people on the symptoms and how to get help.

- Wearing a mask without the proper training on how to fit it to the face does not provide you with meaningful protection from a respiratory virus, and may increase the risk of transmission if not removed and disposed of correctly. There is no evidence to support wearing a mask in people who are not sick.

Public Health recommends everyday prevention actions to reduce the spread of the virus , such as washing hands avoiding touching your eyes or nose, and covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue . For further guidance refer to gov.gg

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