

31/1/2020

Dear parent/carer,

You will have heard by now about the **coronavirus** outbreak in China which has now spread to the UK. While the risk to individuals in this country is not considered high, we would like to share with you some of the precautionary measures we are taking, and you can take, to reduce any risks to our nursery community.

1. Good hygiene, especially hand washing, is considered one of the most important ways to reduce the spread of this virus.
2. We are keeping a close eye on advice from the Department of Health and Social Care, along with Public Health England, on the Government website - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>.
3. This advises that anyone who has recently travelled from coronavirus-infected areas such as Wuhan in China should remain at home and contact NHS 111 for further advice.
4. Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.
5. Generally, as with most respiratory illnesses, coronavirus is likely to cause more severe symptoms in very young children, people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.
6. The NHS says because it is a new virus, it is not known how it is spread, though it is likely to be through cough droplets. There is also no treatment but in many cases the symptoms are mild. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>.
7. If you have been in direct contact with anyone with coronavirus, we strongly advise you to stay at home to prevent the potential spread of the virus.
8. If you are intending to travel to a coronavirus-infected area, we would urge you not to travel and ask you to inform us immediately.
9. We would ask parents that if they or their children are ill with any type of virus and there is a risk of infecting other people, we would ask them to think of others and avoid attending nursery plus seek medical advice.
10. It must be remembered that most respiratory illnesses are the common cold or, in more extreme cases, flu. If you or any children have symptoms that you are concerned about, call NHS 111 or contact your local GP.
11. We have briefed staff about the national picture and would like to stress there is no cause for alarm but would like to reassure you we are here for you, should you wish to ask any questions or raise any concerns with your nursery manager.
12. Further information can be found on the World Health Organisation website: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

We are aware the situation is changing daily and we will update you if further steps are required to minimise any risk to our nursery community.

Kind regards



Cary Rankin
Managing Director, Bertram Nursery Group