

17th March 2020

Schools

- The Bicester School
 - Bicester Technology Studio
 - Theale Green School
 - UTC Heathrow
 - UTC Oxfordshire
 - UTC Reading
 - UTC Swindon
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Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday the government took several new measures to delay the outbreak of COVID-19 and I am writing to you today with the Trust's processes and procedures to support these new measures.

In the first of a series of daily briefings on the virus, the Prime Minister - alongside the government's chief scientific and medical advisers - said the key new measures are:

- Everyone should avoid gatherings and crowded places, such as pubs, clubs and theatres
- Everyone should work from home if they can
- All "unnecessary" visits to friends and relatives in care homes should cease
- By next weekend, those with the most serious health conditions must be "largely shielded from social contact for around 12 weeks"
- The UK is now "three weeks" behind Italy - the worst-hit country in Europe
- If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days
- Those people should, if possible, avoid leaving the house "even to buy food or essentials" - but they may leave the house "for exercise and, in that case, at a safe distance from others"
- Schools will not be closed for the moment

Chief medical adviser Prof Chris Whitty said the group of people who should take "particular care to minimise their social contact" were:

- People over the age of 70
- Other adults who would normally be advised to have the flu vaccine (such as those with chronic diseases)
- Pregnant women

How will this affect you and the school

The government has stated that schools will not be closed for the moment.

Please do notify the school if your child or anyone else in the household have either of the symptoms associated with the virus; they will need to stay off school for 14 days.

The announcement has meant a larger percentage of our students and staff have needed to self-isolate for 14 days and therefore we have made the decision to begin a partial closure programme across all of our schools for the remainder of this week. Each school will issue separate notices

regarding which year groups will be asked to work from home on each day and where students can access work.

We are, however committed to supporting families of key workers and any vulnerable children and therefore each of our schools will have a supervised area available for students to work from if working at home is not an option. Please note the children will be working independently on the work set for those working from home. If you require your child to attend when their year group is working from home, please contact the school in the usual way to let us know so we can plan for appropriate spaces to be available.

We are also aware that some households will have circumstances which may require you to make decisions regarding your child staying at home to protect vulnerable family members. Please contact the school to let us know if this affects your child's attendance.

Thank you for your support, we will continue to update you daily following the government daily press conferences.

Regards



Joanne Harper
Chief Executive Officer - ALET

