

Sedbergh Schools' response to the risk presented by Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Statement No 3 issued on 27 February 2020

The Coronavirus: Covid-19 continues to cause international concern and changes by the day. Recently, we have received instructions to add Japan, South Korea, Iran and parts of Italy to the list of high risk areas. We have reviewed the travel activity of all our pupils and can confirm that none have travelled to any of these high-risk areas.

We will now extend the conditions applied to High Risk Areas to these new countries. These conditions are as follows:

Areas of High Risk (Category 1): China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Iran and specified parts of Italy.

- Sedbergh will not allow any staff to travel to high risk areas on School business, nor allow any visitors, including parents and recruitment Agents, to visit the School from those areas unless they have completed a 14-day quarantine period away from those countries.
- Adults or pupils who travel to a high-risk area will be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine period before return to Sedbergh.
- Pupils who meet others (adults or children) from high risk areas will be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine from the last point of contact before return to Sedbergh, unless the person they meet completes a full 14-day quarantine virus free in which case no further quarantine is required.

Areas of Elevated Risk: Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Macau.

- Pupils must advise the School if they intend to visit any of these countries and may be required to complete a 14-day quarantine period before returning to Sedbergh.
- Adults who have visited these areas recently and who interact with any member of the School must advise the School urgently if they develop flu-like symptoms within 14 days of visiting a risk area.

We are currently collecting Easter travel and visitor information from pupils and will discuss plans with families who appear to be planning travel to, or receiving visitors, from areas of risk.

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It seems almost certain that new outbreaks will emerge in different countries before the end of the Easter holiday. If this occurs in a country that a pupil or family are visiting/have visited within 14 days of the commencement of the Summer Term, we will require the pupil to undergo 14 days quarantine away from Sedbergh before return. Therefore, travel plans made whilst a country is safe to visit may prove unsafe by the time of return, leading to a severe delay in return to School. This is most critical for pupils taking Public Exams. The only way to ensure a timely return to School is to remain in Britain for the duration of the Easter holiday.

We are deeply aware that this situation is distressing for pupils who face the prospect of not seeing family for an extended period and are working closely with them to ensure they are fully supported. We are also considering how best to support pupils who may not be able to return home during the Easter holiday and who might prefer to remain at Sedbergh in place of staying with a Guardian. Once our plans are clear I will write to you again.

Andrew Fleck Principal 27 February 2020

Sedbergh School Sedbergh, Cumbria LA10 5HG

Tel 015396 20535 www.sedberghschool.org