

4 March 2019



West Kirby Grammar School

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Dear Parents/Carers/Staff

You may be aware that Hilbre High School took the decision to close yesterday following a positive coronavirus case in Wirral.

Public Health England (PHE) have spoken to the school, assessed the risk and confirmed that there is currently no information to suggest that there is any increased health risk to any pupils, staff and families at this time, and therefore no public health reason to be closed at the current time.

Julie Webster, Director of Public Health for Wirral Council has advised that Wirral Council is working with Public Health England (PHE) and local health colleagues to do everything they can to stop the virus spreading and ensure the people of Wirral are protected.

The latest national advice is that no schools should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England (PHE).

When a person tests positive for coronavirus, PHE speaks to them to identify anyone who has had close contact with them during the time they are considered to be infectious and go all out to find these people as soon as possible and give them the advice they need.

If you haven't been contacted by PHE you don't need to do anything, other than follow the existing advice for the general public.

Hygiene and prevention:

According to PHE, good hygiene is the best prevention.

There are some simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by washing your hands regularly and thoroughly and if you cough, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.

If you have recently been to one of the affected countries and are feeling unwell, you should phone the NHS's 111 helpline for further advice straight away – please don't go to your doctor. There is lots of advice on how people can protect themselves online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

DfE helpline:

The Department for Education have launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows if they have any worries or concerns.

- Phone: 0800 046 8687
- Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
- Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Yours faithfully

E Sargent (Mrs)
Headteacher