



Brussels, 8th March 2020
2020-03-LD-14/AB/KP

UPDATE 08/03/2020

Communication regarding the outbreak of COVID-19 disease

This communication should be considered as a summary of the former communications regarding the outbreak of COVID-19. So, it cancels and replaces them. We are in regular contact with the relevant services of the European Commission and we have received several updated information published by these services. This summary contains all the important and relevant information as of today and will be regularly updated in the future. New items/pieces of information will be indicated by 'NEW' above the first paragraph of the item and will be in *italics*.

We have taken various measures to better protect all members of the Schools Communities and with which you are expected to comply. As communicated before concerning the following areas precautionary measures are to be put in place by the European Schools. These areas, as of today, are China, Hong Kong, Macau and the lockdown area in Italy: Bertinico, Casalpusterlengo, Castelgerundo, Castiglione d'Adda, Codogno, Fombio, Maleo, San Fiorano, Somaglia, Terranova del passerino, Vò.

- (I) Any children returning from such areas, as well as children whose close family members have returned from these areas should be admitted to the European Schools only 14 days after their return date and on the condition that the whole family remains asymptomatic. Further instructions for the admissions will be issued in due time.
- (II) Any member of staff working in a European School should avoid travelling to such areas and, if they do so, they should also only return to work after 14 days have passed since their return date. Again, further instructions for the admissions will be issued in due time

IMPORTANT: The same rules will apply for any area that the Italian authorities define as a red area in the future.

NEW

*The Italian government has issued a decree on 8 March 2020 introducing strict measures in **Lombardy region** and the following **provinces**: Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Reggio nell'Emilia, Rimini, Pesaro and Urbino, Alessandria, Asti, Novara, Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Vercelli, Padua, Treviso and Venice. Although these are not lockdown areas (under quarantine), due to the high risk of contamination in these territories, schools are to apply **as of now (but not with retroactivity) the same measures as above.***

In case of people arriving from **all other areas in Italy** the following procedure should be followed:

- (I) Any children returning from areas in Italy not mentioned above should not be admitted to the European Schools, **if the child or one close member of the family has had any contact with an ill person infected with the new coronavirus COVID-19**
or
if the child or any close member of the family having travelled in those areas does not remain asymptomatic.
- (II) Any member of staff working in a European School returning from areas in Italy not mentioned above, should also not return to work,
if they have had any contact with an ill person infected with the new coronavirus COVID-19,
or
if they have developed any symptoms.

The **European School Brussels 2** – Woluwe had to implement additional measures taken by the Commune of Woluwe-Saint-Lambert for schools regarding children that return from the Italian regions of Veneto and Lombardy.

The **European School Varese** had to implement additional measures taken by the Italian Authorities, namely the closure of the pedagogical activities up to March 15th.

NEW

In case national authorities of the hosting Member State do foresee stricter rules for national educational institutions, these rules shall also be applied by the European Schools.

NEW

The European School Brussels 3 is closed on Monday and Tuesday (9 and probably 10 March 2020) since Belgian Medical Authorities informed the school that one of the parents has been tested Corona positive. The children of this parent show no symptoms. The closure of the school is a preventive measure until further test results emerge.

NEW

The European School Munich is closed since two students have been tested Corona positive. As a result, the health department has ordered the school to suspend school operations at both school sites for 14 days from Monday, 9.3.2020. All events/trips during this period must be cancelled. This also applies to MEC (Model European Council).

In the event that a member of staff has been travelling to the 'yellow' area and **has had any contact with a sick person infected with the novel coronavirus COVID-19 or has developed any symptoms**, you are advised to get in contact with your general practitioner for advice and care. If you do not have a GP, you can contact the relevant national number for guidance on where to go:

Brussels and Belgium

The Belgian government has now published a helpline on its official coronavirus website: 0800/14689. The e-mail address for queries remains the same: info-coronavirus@health.fgov.be.

Website (FR/NL/DE/EN):

<https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/>

Région de Bruxelles-Capitale : 0478 77 77 08

Luxembourg

Direction de la santé, Division de l'inspection sanitaire (24h/24) : Tel (+352) 247-85650 ou via 112

Ispra and other JRC sites

Italy: <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/homeNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

Netherlands: <https://www.honk.nu/huisartsenpost>

Germany: https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/nCoV.html

Spain: <https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov-China/home.htm>

In case of medical emergency, call 112.

IMPORTANT: Always inform the caregiver about your recent travel history and do not go to the clinic without prior telephone contact.

Same prudent measures, as outlined above for “yellow areas” in Italy, would apply to Singapore, South Korea, Japan and Iran.

As the situation is evolving, these instructions will go on being updated, in close cooperation with the relevant services of the European Commission.

We briefly recall the standard hygiene recommendations that will reduce exposure to, and transmission of, viral respiratory illness, that we recommend to recall to the School Community:

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms (fever and cough);
- Frequently clean your hands by using alcohol-based hand cleanser or soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow (not hands!) or a tissue – throw the tissue away immediately and wash your hands;
- Update your flu-vaccination: this will not protect you against the coronavirus, but may protect you from getting flu-related respiratory symptoms

A more complete information can be found on the website of WHO (World Health Organisation):

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

We finally remind, in general and more importantly in the present context, that children who develop any symptoms should visit their general practitioner and follow his/her advice and when relevant remain at home. The same is recommended to members of staff.