



Brussels, 10th March 2020
2020-03-LD-17/GM/KP

UPDATE 10/03/2020

Communication regarding the outbreak of COVID-19 disease

This communication updates the former one, regarding the outbreak of COVID-19. We are in regular contact with the relevant services of the European Commission and we have received several updated information published by these services.

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 *Italy*.

- (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.

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 Brussels 3** was closed on Monday and Tuesday (9 and 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 was a preventive measure *and the school will re-open tomorrow (11 March)*.

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).

The **European School Varese** had to implement additional measures taken by the Italian Authorities, namely the closure of the pedagogical activities up to April 3rd.

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.

The FAMES (Festival of Art and Music of the European Schools) scheduled for 11-14 in Luxembourg is now postponed until a later date. An update will be published in due course.

In the event that a member of staff **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/>

Luxembourg

Direction de la santé, Division de l'inspection sanitaire (24h/24) : Tel (+352) 8002 8080 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.

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.