



We understand that you may be concerned about Coronavirus. I am writing to inform you of the measures the college is taking to keep you and all members of our college community safe. We continue to follow the latest advice and guidance from the Department for Education, and Public Health England (PHE).

At present the College is operating on a “business as usual” basis and whilst we are not anticipating a worst-case scenario, we have contingency plans in place, to be as prepared as possible.

We will keep you informed and up to date if our situation changes in any way which may impact on college services, including our residential accommodation.

We continue to monitor the situation regularly and to follow the advice of Public Health England (PHE). We are encouraging all members of our community to help in slowing the spread of all germs, including Coronavirus, and protecting themselves by:

- Carrying tissues and using them to catch coughs or sneezes
- Placing the tissue in the bin
- To kill the germs, washing their hands with soap and water, or using a sanitiser gel

PHE and Leicestershire County Council say the risk to the general public remains low.

Public Health England, Leicestershire County Council and the local NHS continue to work closely to respond and Public Health England is currently contacting people who may have had close contact with any confirmed case.

Close contacts will be given health advice about symptoms and emergency contact details to use if they become unwell in the 14 days after they had contact with the confirmed case. This tried and tested method will ensure that any risk to them is minimised and the wider public is protected.

PHE and the NHS are well-prepared to deal with coronavirus and the priority is to safeguard local communities which sometimes involves taking preventative measures to help reduce the risk of further cases.

Based on current evidence, Coronavirus COVID-19 presents with flu-like symptoms including a fever, a cough, or difficulty breathing. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild. Anyone who is concerned about health symptoms is advised to follow the advice about what to do on the [Government's website](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public) (www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public) and nhs.uk.

INNOVATIVE

ETHICAL

EXCELLENT

SUSTAINABLE

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has also advised against all but essential travel to China and advised extra precautions for people returning from the following areas:

Mainland China

Hong Kong

Iran

Singapore

Taiwan

Macao

Cambodia

Italy

South Korea

Vietnam

Japan

Laos

Malaysia

Myanmar

Thailand

The latest information on the 'at risk' countries can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus.

We will be endorsing this guidance in our college, so if any members of your household, have visited any of the countries or are visited by people coming to the UK from these countries and they have come into contact with a known case, the government advice is that you must self-isolate for fourteen days in a non-affected area. Should this apply to you we ask that you notify us immediately, contacting sservices@smbgroup.ac.uk or Stephenson College reception on 01530 836136

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep in touch with you as it develops. Thank you for your support in protecting the health and wellbeing of our community, of which you are a valued member.

Yours faithfully



Catherine Duro
Vice Principal Corporate Services