

Our Ref : LB/SMcN  
Date : 16 March 2020

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Dear Parent/Carer

### **Updated Advice to parents/carers – COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Further to my recent communication on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), I wanted to provide you with a further update. I am sure that by now, you are aware that the First Minister has announced that we have moved from 'containment' to the 'delay' phase. East Lothian Council is continuing to act on national advice.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/coronavirus-guidance-issued-for-education-providers>.

The NHS have indicated that they are no longer testing everyone with symptoms but have announced that anyone with a new persistent cough and/or fever must self-isolate for seven days. If this affects your child then they should not attend school. We ask that parents follow the health advice from NHS Scotland [www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19) in making this decision and notify the school in the usual way. It is not for the school to advise on the nature of a child's symptoms nor to decide on whether a child should attend or not.

The First Minister has indicated that schools will remain open at this time but that this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. As a result, our schools are putting in place contingency plans for your child's continuing education in case this position changes. Further information will be provided by your child's school on the local arrangements if required and this includes ensuring access to digital learning. Given the ongoing uncertainties and to minimise the risk to pupils, staff and parents, we have taken the decision to cancel all additional activities including after school activities, offsite trips and those that involve multiple parent attendance e.g. school shows and concerts and parents nights. Small-scale meetings can still go ahead with the appropriate social distancing and enhanced hygiene measures in place.

The Scottish Government has announced that there should be no International School trips during this time. We are now reviewing all school trips and camps in the UK and your school will be in touch with you if plans for your child are affected.

East Lothian Council is working closely with health partners to ensure we are prepared to respond to any future developments. Updated information is available on East Lothian Council's website or via social media. [www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk)

I trust this is helpful and any further updates or information will be issued as appropriate.

Yours sincerely



Lesley R Brown  
Chief Operating Officer (Education)

Coronavirus  
Covid-19



Wash your  
hands.



Use a tissue  
for coughs and  
sneezes.



Avoid touching  
your face.

[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)