

Ratcliffe College

COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Visitor Policy

In response to the global Coronavirus outbreak, Ratcliffe College has implemented a strict visitor policy to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the whole school community.

Our policy has been developed in accordance with the advice and guidance given by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Public Health England (PHE), the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) and the Medical Officer of Schools Association (MOSA), supported by our in-house medical team.

The current situation is as follows:

- Medical advice tells us that Covid-19 has a fourteen-day period in which a potential risk-carrier (whether symptomatic or not) can spread the virus.
- With that contagion period in mind, a person travelling from a high-risk country, as defined by PHE, must self-isolate for fourteen days.
- If another person (student or staff) comes into *direct contact* with a potential risk-carrier during that fourteen-day period and is symptomatic, they too must self-isolate for fourteen days from the first day of contact and contact NHS111.

Therefore, to protect the school community, we would ask anyone who meets the following criteria not to visit the School until they have completed the specified self-isolation period and remained symptom-free. The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

But these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

Please do not visit the School if:

- You are awaiting test results for Covid-19.
- You have visited or transited through any of the high-risk countries and areas * (PHE categories 1 and 2) in the past 14 days.
- You have had *direct contact* with anyone who has visited or transited through any of these countries (PHE categories 1 and 2) within the past 14 days and are symptomatic.

If you fulfil either of these criteria, you must:

- Self-isolate in the UK for 14 days from the day of arrival from a high-risk country/area, or if you are with a person from a high-risk country and you are symptomatic.
- Be symptom-free during this period before visiting the School.

Given the close-knit environment in our school and boarding houses where viruses can be transmitted easily, our policy on self-isolation goes above and beyond the minimum standards of care, as our number one priority is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and the wider school community.

We will continue to monitor the Coronavirus outbreak and assess the associated risks carefully. This is fast-changing and we will issue new information as appropriate.

2 March 2020

*Note: the countries currently listed as 'high-risk' by PHE can be found on the PHE website.