

9 March, 2020

Statement on the Novel Coronavirus/Covid-19

The welfare of students and staff is our top priority at Frances King. We carefully monitor the advice of UK and Irish health authorities daily. Our policies and practices are amended as needed.

The UK and Irish governments are taking the situation very seriously and are confident of the health services' capability to manage the situation.

The school follows public health advice about people arriving in the UK or Ireland.

UK

	Area	Advice
Category 1	Wuhan city and Hubei Province in China, Italy, Iran and Daegu and Cheongdo in South Korea.	Students may not start a course or use Frances King accommodation until 2 weeks have elapsed since they visited the area without showing any symptoms. They must self-isolate immediately and call the health service.
Category 2	Other areas including rest of China, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and South Korea outside special care zones.	Students do not need to take special measures but if they develop symptoms they should self-isolate and call 111nhs in the UK.

People who came from lockdown areas in northern Italy between 19 February and 8 March 2020 should self-isolate for 14 days. If they develop symptoms they should contact NHS111. Lombardy region (which includes the cities of Milan, Bergamo, Como) and the provinces of Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Reggio Emilia and Rimini (all in Emilia Romagna); Pesaro e Urbino (in Marche); Alessandria, Asti, Novara, Verbanco-Cusio-Ossola and Vercelli (all in Piemonte); Padova. Treviso and Venice (in Veneto).

Travellers who returned from the rest of Italy before 9 March 2020 do not need to undertake any special measures, but if they develop symptoms they should self-isolate and call NHS 111.

Please note, category 2 advice only relates to recent travellers from these countries who are experiencing symptoms, NOT every traveller from these regions to the UK or Ireland.

Ireland

Affected areas where COVID-19 is circulating - China, Hong Kong, Singapore South Korea, Iran, Japan, Italy

If within the last 14 days 1) you haven't been in an affected area 2) haven't been in contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19	Carry on with your normal routine and follow advice about how to protect yourself from Corona virus.
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<p>3) haven't attended a healthcare facility in another country where patients with COVID-19 are being treated</p> <p>4) you are feeling well</p>	
<p>If within the last 14 days</p> <p>1) you have been in an affected area</p> <p>2) have been in contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19</p> <p>3) have attended a healthcare facility in another country where patients with COVID-19 are being treated</p>	<p>If you are feeling well, call the HSE helpline Callsave 1850 24 1850 or tel 041 6850300 for further advice</p> <p>If you are feeling unwell (fever, cough, shortness of breath)</p> <p>Self isolate in room with a phone by yourself</p> <p>Phone GP if you have one or emergency department on 999</p>

Self-isolate means to stay at home not go to work, school or public areas, not use public transport like buses, trains, tubes or taxis, avoid visitors to your home, and ask friends, family members or delivery services to carry out errands for you – such as getting groceries, medications or other shopping. Here is a video:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51652874>

The school administers a Health and Travel Questionnaire to all students to ensure correct advice is given.

Students, staff and homestay hosts are receiving advice about avoiding infection, the symptoms and what to do if symptoms were to develop. We are stressing the importance of good basic hygiene and making anti-bacterial sanitising gels and clinical wipes available in the schools.

Normal cancellation terms apply unless travel advisories have been issued by country of departure or the UK or Irish Governments. Postponements will be accepted subject to the usual notice periods for accommodation bookings. Depending on circumstances, students can choose to go to Dublin instead of London and vice versa.

You are advised to regularly check updates on government websites:

UK: NHS

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

(updated daily at 14:00)

IRELAND: HE HPSC Ireland

www.hpsc.ie

(updated daily at 13.00)

Advice for people coming to Ireland from other countries:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/traveladvice/Advice%20for%20people%20who%20have%20come%20to%20Ireland%20from%20other%20countries%20V3.pdf>

World Health Organisation

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