

FAQs – Novel Coronavirus – 29 January 2020

1. Does the advice on Novel Coronavirus relate to students who visited Hong Kong?

Yes. This advice relates to any person who has travelled to China, including Hong Kong.

2. Does this advice also relate to students who transited through airports in China?

No. The current advice does not relate to students who only passed through airports in China or Hong Kong. These students are free to attend school as usual.

3. Does this apply to staff who return from China in the coming weeks?

Yes, this will remain in place until formal advice is provided to staff and schools that the arrangement is to cease.

4. Do students require a medical certificate to return to school?

For students who have travelled to China in the last 14 days, a medical certificate is not required if students are not attending school as a precautionary measure. Where students remain without symptoms 14 days after returning from China, they do not require a medical certificate to return to school after the 14 days. Schools should request a short note from parents/carers to explain the absence from school in the usual way.

If a student has become unwell within 14 days of returning from China or if they have been diagnosed with the Novel Coronavirus they will need a medical certificate confirming they are able to return to work or school.

5. Are any students currently excluded from school?

The only students currently excluded from school are those who:

- are under medical assessment or
- have been diagnosed with the Novel Coronavirus or
- have had close contact with a confirmed case of the Novel Coronavirus.

In these cases, the family and school have been notified directly. Schools are advised to strongly encourage any parents/carers with students who have departed China in the last 14 days to refrain from sending students to school.

6. Will the school be notified if there is confirmed case of the virus?

Relevant protocols, as advised by the Ministry of Health, will be followed. The decision to inform the school and any members of the school community will be made case by case, depending on if there has been close contact with any person(s) at the school.

7. How does this advice apply to students in Before and After School Care?

Where students are requested to remain home from school, they should also be requested to not attend Before and After School Care.