

As you know, the news is all about Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The picture on the right is a crown-shaped corona virus atom.

It is very new, and scientists are rapidly learning more about the virus.

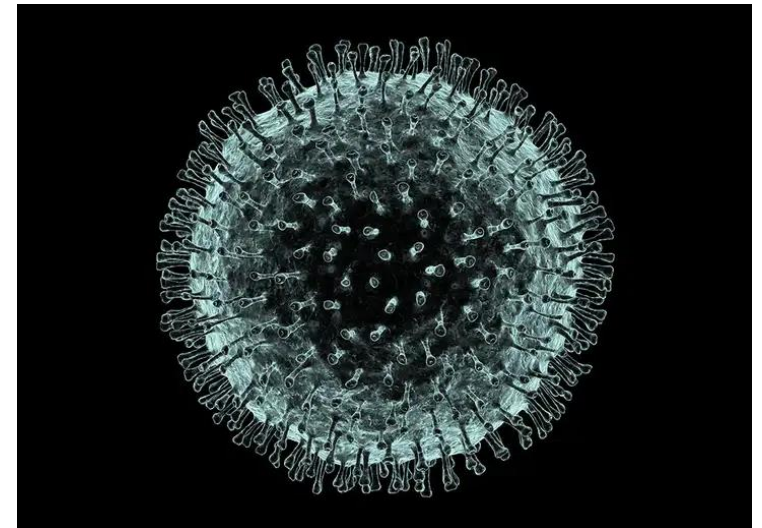
We are listening to them and following their advice.

This is because the health and safety of our students and everyone who works here is our most important priority.

We also have a duty towards your families and your networks.

Staff of William Ellis School have prepared this short slideshow to help keep us all safe.

Please listen to your teacher and watch the slideshow carefully.





What
messages are
we getting?

- media reporting of coronavirus is very dramatic, and unfortunately there is a lot of misinformation (untrue stuff) and scare stories, especially on social media
- the virus is very serious and people are dying of it, so it is important to know the truth so that we can all look after ourselves and our loved ones



What you need to know

- How can you tell if someone has coronavirus?
- It is a respiratory disease, it affects your lungs and can make breathing difficult.
- The main symptoms are:
 - you have a very high temperature – your skin feels hot to the touch on your chest or back,
 - you start coughing a lot.



What you need to know

The scientists believe that young people of your age are not likely to get coronavirus.

If you do have the symptoms, you should stay at home for seven days. You will probably recover quickly and it won't be too bad for you.

Unless it is really bad and doesn't go away after a few days, you shouldn't go to the doctor or hospital.

At the moment, there isn't any cure for coronavirus.

You can spread it to other people. That's why we all need to follow the simple steps on the next slide.



What you need to know

This is the advice from the scientists who are studying coronavirus:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home and into school
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- avoid close contact with people who have symptoms of coronavirus
- avoid close contact with people who may be at-risk
- keep your hands to yourself
- try not to touch your face
- only travel on public transport if you need to
- walk to places rather than use bus or tube, if you can
- avoid social activities
- don't go to events with large groups of people



What you need to know

It's important to remember that you should follow those simple precautions to protect others, because there are some people in society who are much more at risk than most of you.

The people most at risk are:

- older people aged 70 or over – for many of you this will be your grandparents or parents (see the next slide)
- people who have a long-term illness or medical condition
- women who are pregnant
- people who have a weakened immune system



What you need
to know

COVID-19 Fatality Rate by AGE:

AGE	DEATH RATE
80+ years old	14.8%
70-79 years old	8.0%
60-69 years old	3.6%
50-59 years old	1.3%
40-49 years old	0.4%
30-39 years old	0.2%
20-29 years old	0.2%
10-19 years old	0.2%
0-9 years old	no fatalities



What you need to know

If you have been in contact with someone who has the symptoms – high temperature, persistent cough – you must self-isolate for fourteen days.

This means that you stay indoors at home, and don't have contact with anyone else. This really does mean staying in your room.

Remember, it's other people who are at risk, not just yourself. You have a responsibility to them.

That's why, as of today, we have ten members of staff who are self-isolating because they have been in contact with someone who might have the virus, such as a family member, friend, someone they live with or someone they've spent time with.

They probably don't have the virus, but they don't want to risk passing it on to anyone else at school.



What you need to know

There are some things that won't help.

For example, wearing a mask or rubber gloves. In fact, the gloves are more likely to carry the infection than to stop it.

You only need to wear these if you are very close to an at-risk person. For example, if you are caring for an elderly or very ill person, or if there is someone in your home who is at risk, you would wear gloves if you needed to touch them, or feed them, or wash them or touch the same objects as them.

We do have boys at this school who live with people who are at risk, such as a grandparent or a sick parent. Many of them are now self-isolating. The boys themselves are healthy but they don't want to risk the health of their loved ones.

The best thing we can all do is lots of hand-washing.



What you need to know

Why haven't we closed the school?

Good question.

At the moment, the advice we have received is to keep the school open.

This is because we value your education and safety.

We also realise that if we close the school, it will cause a real problem for many of your parents. If they have to stop working to look after children, they might not get paid.

Many parents do important work in the health service, food service, retail, caring, emergency services and so on. We all depend on them. If they all have to stop working to look after children, who will do their jobs?

For example, if lots of nurses and doctors have to stop working to look after their children, who will look after the sick people in hospital?



What you need to know

However, it seems likely that we will be told to close the school some time. This may be for a few days or weeks, or maybe even longer.

This really isn't a joke.

Losing education is far too serious.

It's people's lives we are talking about.

It's very worrying for your parents.

If the situation gets worse, and we all end up being told to stay indoors, it won't be fun.

So, we are asking you to be highly responsible and follow the advice.

In conclusion

- Wash your hands a lot
- Stay at home and avoid large crowds
- Self-isolate if you have to
- Be thoughtful about the at-risk groups
- Use Office365 to keep up with school work if you do have to stay at home
- Look at the school website every day for advice and information:

www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk

And finally, please don't joke or have banter about this: it is too serious for that. As a school and a society we will get through this, but it is a frightening time for many people and we all have a duty to be sensible and behave responsibly.