



Brussels, 2nd March 2020
2020-03-LD-2/GM

UPDATE 02/03/2020

Communication regarding the outbreak of COVID-19 disease

This message should be considered as a complement to the former communications. We have in fact received an updated communication published by the European Commission relevant services late on 28/02/2020 and 02/03/2020.

We are in constant contact with the relevant services of the European Commission.

We have taken various measures to better protect all members of the Schools Communities and with which you are expected to comply. Here we recall the measures for Italy:

For the **lockdown (red) area** in Italy: Bertonico, Casalpusterlengo, Castelgerundo, Castiglione d'Adda, Codogno, Fombio, Maleo, San Fiorano, Somaglia, Terranova del passerine, Vò – the same precautionary measures by the European schools are to be put in place:

- (I) Any children returning from such areas, as well as children whose close family members have returned from these areas should be admitted to the European schools only 14 days after their return date and on the condition that the whole family remains asymptomatic. Further instructions for the admissions will be issued in due time.
- (II) Any member of staff working in a European school should avoid travelling to such areas and, if they do so, they should also only return to work after 14 days have passed since their return date. Again, further instructions for the admissions will be issued in due time

IMPORTANT: The same rules will apply for any area that the Italian authorities define as a red area in the future. For regular updates on this red area please visit the link below and check 'Allegati' (attachments) on the right side of the screen for updated information.

<http://www.anci.lombardia.it/dettaglio-news/2020224166-coronavirus-%E2%80%93-chiarimenti-interpretativi-su-ordinanza-regione-lombardia-%E2%80%93-ministero-della-salute/>

For the **“yellow areas” in Italy**, or “area gialla”, extending essentially to most of the regions in Northern Italy (Lombardy - including Crema and Bergamo, which are under heightened surveillance - Piedmont, Emilia Romagna and Veneto):

- (I) Any children returning from such areas should be admitted to the European schools, **unless the child or one close member of the family had any contact with an ill person infected with the novel coronavirus COVID-19, or upon condition that the child or any close member of the family having travelled in those areas remains asymptomatic.**

- (II) Any member of staff working in a European school returning from such areas, they should also return to work, **unless they had any contact with an ill person infected with the novel coronavirus COVID-19, or upon condition that they have not developed any symptoms**

In the event that a member of staff has been travelling to the “yellow area” and **has had any contact with a sick person infected with the novel coronavirus COVID-19 or has developed any symptoms**, you are advised to get in contact with your general practitioner for advice and care. If you do not have a GP, you can contact the relevant national number for guidance on where to go:

Brussels and Belgium

Région de Bruxelles-Capitale : 0478 77 77 08

Luxembourg

Direction de la santé, Division de l'inspection sanitaire (24h/24) : Tel (+352) 247-85650 ou via 112

Ispra and other JRC sites

Italy

Netherlands

Germany

Spain

In case of medical emergency, call 112.

IMPORTANT: Always inform the caregiver about your recent travel history and do not go to the clinic without prior telephone contact.

Same prudent measures, as outlined above for “yellow areas” in Italy, would apply to Singapore, South Korea, Japan and Iran.

Recommendations for China, Hong Kong and Macao remain the same (see communication on 25/02).

The European School Brussels 2 – Woluwe had to implement additional measures taken by the Commune of Woluwe-Saint-Lambert for schools regarding children that return from the Italian regions of Veneto and Lombardy.

The European School Varese had to implement additional measures taken by the Italian Authorities, namely the closure of the pedagogical activities up to March 8th.

As the situation is evolving, these instructions will go on being updated, in close cooperation with the services of the European Commission.

We also briefly recall the standard hygiene recommendations that will reduce exposure to, and transmission of, viral respiratory illness, that we recommend to recall to the School Community:

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms (fever and cough);

- Frequently clean your hands by using alcohol-based hand cleanser or soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow (not hands!) or a tissue – throw the tissue away immediately and wash your hands;
- Update your flu-vaccination: this will not protect you against the coronavirus, but may protect you from getting flu-related respiratory symptoms

A more complete information can be found on the website of WHO (World Health Organisation):

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

We finally remind, in general and more importantly in the present context, that children who develop any symptoms should visit their general practitioner and follow his/her advice and when relevant remain at home. The same is recommended to members of staff.