

## Communication on 24 January 2020 to parents and guardians

Dear Parents,

Following continued news coverage of the 2019-nCoV virus (known as the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia) and the first confirmed case in Singapore, this is an update from GESS for parents.

GESS, as all other schools in Singapore, works closely with the MOH (Ministry of Health) and MOE (Ministry of Education) concerning the health of students and staff. The GESS medical staff also work closely with the medical staff of the other international schools in Singapore to coordinate our response to health risks.

### Reminder of GESS Weekly health advice:

Let's work together to keep our school community and our homes as healthy as possible!

Please don't send your child to school if they are experiencing such symptoms:

- Fever over 37.8°C within the last 24 hours (fever free without medication)
- Vomiting or diarrhoea within the last 24 hours
- Continuous coughing not relieved by cough medicine, and green mucus excreted from the nose
- Strep throat - this may return 24 hours after starting antibiotics

Please check with the school nurse or your doctor about other illnesses. Please remember to notify the school nurse if your child has a contagious illness: [firstaid@gess.sg](mailto:firstaid@gess.sg).

### Helpful Tips for Staying Healthy:

Hand washing is the best way to prevent and combat the spread of germs! Wash hands often with soap and water or hand sanitizer. Explain this to your children.

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow or arm if no tissue is available.
- Do not share drinks and food or use unwashed utensils.
- Get plenty of rest, eat healthy food and drink lots of water and healthy drinks.
- Avoid people that are sick and stay home when you are sick.
- Disinfect surfaces that are prone to germs, e.g. phones, keyboards and doorknobs.

**Precautions taken by the school from 3 - 14 February:**

1. All teachers will regularly ventilate the classrooms and other teaching spaces.
2. We are installing more hand sanitisers in key points in the school.
3. All students must sanitise their hands before lesson 1 each day from 3 - 14 February.
4. All students who are sent to First Aid will be asked to outline their travel history.

**Precautions all GESS families must follow from 3 - 14 February:**

1. Take the temperature of all members of the family every morning before leaving your home. If your child has a temperature of 37.8°C or above, they must remain at home. Please contact [school@gess.sg](mailto:school@gess.sg), the Homeroom teacher and [firstaid@gess.sg](mailto:firstaid@gess.sg) to alert the school in this case. Please send your child back to school only when they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without medication).
2. If a child falls ill during the school day, a surgical mask will be applied by our medical staff and the parents will be phoned to collect their child from school immediately.

**Further advice for parents:**

- If your child falls ill, please seek medical consultation.
- Parents are encouraged to buy a pocket hand sanitiser, which the students can carry with them.

For further information from the Ministry of Health, Singapore, please [click here](#). GESS will continue to monitor the situation and continue to update parents.