

Brussels, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
2020-02-LD-22/KP

## UPDATE 27/02/2020

### Communication regarding the outbreak of COVID-19 disease

The outbreak of COVID-19 disease, caused by a novel Coronavirus, started in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The outbreak has gradually spread throughout all mainland China and has affected several other neighbouring as well distant countries.

(<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases> )

However, the risk of infection is not the same for all affected countries - it is only countries with sustained community transmission that present a significant risk of infection.

(<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/areas-presumed-ongoing-community-transmission-2019-ncov>).

It is only for these areas with sustained community transmission - as of today China, Hong Kong, Macau and the lockdown area in Italy: Bertonico, Casalpusterlengo, Castelgerundo, Castiglione d'Adda, Codogno, Fombio, Maleo, San Fiorano, Somaglia, Terranova del passerine, Vò - that 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.
- (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.

**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/>

Children and staff returning from other areas without sustained community transmission do not need to undergo any quarantine period. However, as the situation is evolving, the list of areas with sustained community transmission will be updated, in close cooperation with the services of the European Commission and any country-specific advice needs to be modified accordingly.

Meanwhile the appropriate hygiene measures, as recommended by WHO<sup>1</sup> to fight the outbreak should already be introduced at the European schools.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>