



Oxbridge Guardians - Statement on Covid-19 (March 9th 2020)

In light of the recent developments of the Covid-19 outbreak, Oxbridge Guardians have prepared the following statement to advise students, parents and partners of the response from us and the support we can offer, in line with guidance from AEGIS, BSA, Public Health England, and the UK Government.

Firstly, we wish to reassure you that we are following the guidance as detailed above, and following the updates on this situation should these recommendations change. In terms of the UK advice for prevention of spreading the disease, we encourage strongly all students and staff to follow the below guidance (from Public Health Information on Handwashing <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-information-campaign-focuses-on-handwashing>):

Recommended general hygiene actions by Public Health England

- Wash your hands before cooking or eating (for at least 20 seconds)
- Try not to touch your nose, eyes and mouth with unwashed hands
- Do not share items that have come into contact with your mouth such as cups and bottles
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Ensure that you put used tissues in the bin straight away (Advice is to Catch it, Bin it, Kill it)

Similarly, there is guidance on when it would be necessary to self-isolate or seek further health guidance from NHS. This is employed nationwide, and advisors are available 24 hours per day via NHS 111. Oxbridge Guardians are happy to help our students should they feel they have symptoms or need further advice from NHS 111 in relation to Covid-19.

The UK Government has published its response to Covid-19, which has 4 stages - we are currently in Stage 1: Containment.

1. Containment
2. Delay
3. Research
4. Mitigate

For full information on the UK Government response to the Covid-19 Outbreak, please read the full published action plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Easter Break

The current advice from AEGIS and BSA is that students should stay in the UK until travel restrictions are lifted. This is in line with Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice against all but essential travel to selected countries, in response to outbreaks in those areas.

Oxbridge Guardians are offering the following options to their students during the half term break:

- Host Family
- Home Tuition
- Boarding House (if the School is open for boarding)
- Residential Activity Programme

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Any accommodation option would be made after consideration of previous students who may have stayed there (and their relevant travel history). In this way, before placement Oxbridge Guardians may request the travel history of the family and their previously hosted students.

We appreciate that parents and students may choose not to follow this advice, and may prefer to organise for their children to travel anyway. Should this be the case, we direct parents and students to the information provided by individual Schools, about relevant self-isolation periods which would apply before the students would be allowed to rejoin the school. These are as informed by the ongoing developments in the containment phase of the UK Government's current campaign in the prevention of the spread of Covid-19.

As AEGIS detail within their statement with BSA; Guardians, Schools and Host Families are not able to effectively provide quarantine/self-isolation, due to the risks it may cause to themselves and the wider community. In this way, should a student decide to spend the Easter break abroad, it would be necessary for a parent to accompany them back to the UK, to spend the 14 days quarantine period with the student.

Please note, that if students are unable to rejoin the school due to ongoing travel restrictions or developments with the Covid-19 virus, it may be necessary for the students to resit the Academic Year - this should be a consideration that parents make before they decide on any travel plans.

Relevant Policies and Publications:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869250/Coronavirus_advice_for_educational_settings_poster.pdf

<https://aegisuk.net/aegis-statement-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Oxbridge Guardians Emergency Policy (specifically the paragraph related to Health Pandemic)

For any further information or clarity please contact:

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