



# **Corona Virus (Covid 19) Policy**

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# Corona Virus Policy

## Background

The guidance to limit the spread of Covid 19, the Corona Virus, is ever changing and both local, national and international are considered in writing this.

Guidance is also taken from AEGIS, The Association of Guardianship and Education for International Students, of which Alpha Guardians is fully accredited, gaining Gold Standard and their policy:

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



Alpha Guardians seeks to follow this charter, to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our students.

Other guidance that we are monitoring regularly:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-isolation-for-residential-educational-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-isolation-for-residential-educational-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

<https://www.boarding.org.uk/userfiles/bsa/Covid%20documents/Covid%20Safe%20Charter.pdf>

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At Alpha Guardians, what is foremost in our minds is the health and safety of all of our students, particularly as they come to the UK to continue or commence their studies.

Covid 19 and its effects are now seen worldwide and for all of us, this has been a learning experience, as internationally we learn more about the virus, seek to manufacture a vaccine or find an effective treatment.

In the UK currently, many things are returning to 'normal' with shops open, restaurants and bars reopening and schools planning a full return to education in September 2020. However, there are things that have changed which include social distancing and in some places mask wearing. Washing our hands has become more frequent and use of hand sanitiser common practice.

## September 2020 - How is this going to work?

### Arrival and Travel

Traveling to the UK, as with most countries worldwide, the airports and airlines have measures in place to ensure your safety whilst taking your flight and transiting through the airport.

On your arrival in the UK, you will be met by The Alpha Team or your Named Driver as notified prior to arrival. Their whereabouts on arrival will be messaged to you, as they may be required to wait outside of the terminal building.

Once with your driver, who will be wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing guidelines and hygiene procedures, you will be transported safely to your host family or school. The transport will be equipped with hand sanitiser, wipes and spare face coverings, should these be required and a Welcome Pack with snacks and drinks will also be available for each student.

We would be grateful if you could inform us as soon as you book your child's flight so we can make the necessary arrangements for them to be collected and escorted safely to their school or host family.

### Quarantine

For some students, depending on the country they are flying from/living in, it will be necessary for them to undertake a 14 day quarantine period at a fixed address in the UK. Details of countries which currently require this are listed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

Details of this address will have to be provided in advance to the English Authorities and Alpha Guardians will do this on your behalf.

<https://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk>

**In School** - Most of the Independent Schools we work with have arranged to open early and will be accepting students during this time. Your school will advise you on the opening dates for this.

**In Homestay** - All of our hosts are happy to accept their student/s early to meet this requirement.

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## What happens if my child gets Covid 19 symptoms in the UK?

Each student, whether in Boarding or Homestay is registered with a GP (General Practitioner) in the UK, entitling them to NHS care, should the need arise.

**At School** - each school has their own specific procedures as to the isolation and treatment of students displaying symptoms of Covid and we recommend you read these alongside this policy. Generally speaking, students displaying symptoms will be isolated at the school for a period of 14 days. Treatment will be provided as needed.

**In the Homestay** - if the student, or anyone within the household becomes unwell when living in homestay, the whole unit will self isolate for a period of 14 days. Medical assistance will be accessed as needed and the current government guidance followed, as to the course of treatment.

## What can my child do to help avoid Covid 19?

**Masks** - Currently masks have to be worn by everyone using public transport, in shops and crowded places and each student should ensure they have an adequate supply of masks to comply with this. Schools currently have varied policies on mask wearing, preferring students to social distance instead. However any student wishing to wear a mask within the school environment will be welcome.

**Washing Hands/Use of Hand Sanitiser** - Washing hands or using hand sanitiser should be done regularly, particularly after touching surfaces, door handles, and other public areas where contamination could occur. Hand washing should be done thoroughly for at least 20 seconds and where this is not available, sanitiser should be used. It is recommended that each student carry a small bottle of sanitiser with them at all times and use regularly.

**Social Distancing** - The guidance on this is changing and the recommended distance is 2m, however this is likely to be reduced to 1.5m and 1m in some settings. Whatever the distance, it is important to remember to socially distance from those around you, particularly in the school environment, but also in shops and on public transport. Hugging and embracing is discouraged at this current time.

**Testing** - If your child develops symptoms, it is possible to get them tested in some cases and the school, the host or Alpha Guardians will follow the current guidelines to source this, if available.

Many symptoms of Covid are similar to that of the common cold and in the UK, we are able to treat many of these symptoms, as well as other minor ailments, with medicines purchased from the Pharmacist, without the need to see a Dr.

In each case, the most appropriate treatment will be sought and actioned for any student who becomes unwell.

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## **What happens if my Child cannot go home for the holidays?**

Normally it would be expected that students return home to their families during the major school holidays of Christmas, Easter and Summer, however we recognise that during the Covid 19 Pandemic, this may not be possible or in the best interests of the student.

If this situation arises, Alpha Guardians will be happy to provide host family accommodation for students. Please inform us as soon as possible if this is your intention or you become aware this will be necessary.

## **Alpha Guardians is here to help**

The Covid 19 Pandemic has clearly highlighted the important role that Aegis Accredited Guardians do and the evidence of how swiftly and smoothly students were able to get home safely is testament to the stringent processes Alpha Guardians has in place to ensure the safety and welfare of all of its' students.

Students who chose not to, or were unable to return home remained with a host family for the duration.

We are looking forward to welcoming students old and new back in September for the new academic year, but accept that Covid 19 is still present, although controlled. Following our guidelines and that set out by the Aegis Covid-19 Safe Charter will ensure that each student receives the best possible care, and that clear practices and procedures are in place to ensure this.

## **Alpha Guardians is here to help - please ask!**