



## International Epidemic of an Infectious Disease Policy

English in Chester has adopted a policy for dealing with international epidemic outbreaks of infectious disease. This policy will apply when UK government bodies or other recognised medical advice suggests that the school should take containing action to avoid the spread of the epidemic. It will not apply to isolated cases of illness.

### What can students do before they come to Chester?

- All students coming to the school should make sure they have adequate travel insurance. This needs to cover medical expenses, cancellation and postponement. The school will not be able to cover expenses incurred by any illness, such as reorganising a flight or a longer stay in accommodation after the course has finished, so we advise all students to ensure that they have suitable insurance cover.
- If an epidemic has been declared by the authorities, students should not travel to Chester if they suspect that they are carriers of the infectious disease in question. It is likely in any case that the airline will not allow the student to travel.
- In these circumstances, if a student has another serious medical condition, he or she should consider whether they can postpone their visit to the UK. The school will consider any requests to postpone arrival sympathetically if students have a pre-existing serious medical condition.

### What will the school do if a student is suspected of having caught the declared infectious disease?

- The school will help the student to check their symptoms. The school has designated a room for quarantining students who are unwell and suspected of having an infectious disease.
- The school will help the student to contact any government helpline and/or a doctor in the UK who will advise the student and prescribe medicine if required.
- Any member of staff or student who is suffering from the declared infectious disease will be isolated from other students. Staff will be sent home and we will encourage students to stay at their homestay or other accommodation if possible until they feel better and/or when the doctor confirms they are fit to return to school. Students will be marked as authorised absences for the period they are away from school.
- The school will keep in close touch with students if they are ill, as we always do, and if appropriate will provide language work for the student to do at home. Students should inform the school when they feel fit to return to normal classes.
- The school will not close unless there is a severe outbreak, following advice from the UK government and English UK. The school may have to take other short-term measures, such as combining classes, if staff numbers are significantly reduced through illness. The school will do all it can to ensure that the students receive the excellent provision that they would normally expect.
- There may be cases where students suffering from an illness are unable to travel as planned at the end of their course. The school will help them to extend or find alternative accommodation and to re-arrange any travel plans if necessary.
- The school's terms and conditions fully outline the school's position regarding postponement or cancellation of courses.

Reviewed February 2019