

## Pippa's Guardians Covid-19 Policy

### Overview

Pippa's Guardians is a fully accredited gold standard AEGIS guardianship organisation. We operate under guidance and advice from AEGIS in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic. The AEGIS Covid 19 Safe Charter can be found [here](#). This advice is provided by AEGIS to schools, overseas parents and other member organisations.

### Pippa's Guardians - an AEGIS accredited guardian

AEGIS accredited guardianship organisations are professionally structured organisations which are fully insured, often trained in Mental Health and always in Safeguarding, offering 24/7 emergency assistance throughout the academic year.

The group of AEGIS accredited guardianship organisations regularly discuss matters relating to Covid 19. The aim is to present a united approach to the assistance that AEGIS guardianship organisations can offer during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. AEGIS recommend that overseas parents familiarise themselves with the rigorous inspection process undertaken by AEGIS guardianship organisations which can be found [here](#). They recommend that parents choose an AEGIS accredited guardian whose processes and practices have been fully inspected by trained and independent inspectors.

AEGIS accredited guardianship organisations have been praised by schools, agents and parents for their hard work and swift action during the Covid 19 crisis. Pippa's Guardians were pro-active in assisting schools, students and parents when schools were closed with short notice in March 2020 and have subsequently worked closely with all parties as the pandemic challenge grew to ensure we offered the highest level of support to our students and their families.

Pippa's Guardians continue to monitor the situation with Covid-19 regularly and will always follow guidance at Gov.UK to ensure full compliance with Covid 19 regulations. This advice can be found [here](#)

Pippa's Guardians also follow advice from and are part of [Safe Schools UK](#) who, in turn, refer to the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) and follow their [Covid-Safe Charter](#).

## **Coordination of safe travel to and from the UK**

It is likely that some travel arrangements will need to be planned at the last minute as government guidance and individual country entry requirements are updated. Pippa's Guardians can support parents with all travel arrangements and provide assistance on arrival 24/7.

Pippa's Guardians will organise airport transfers with drivers who are fully vetted and experienced in transporting international students. Our Pippa's Guardians driver guidelines can be found [here](#).

Pippa's Guardians will help support the student or parent to complete the online Passenger Locator Form via the link found [here](#) before arrival into the UK. The form cannot be submitted until 48 hours before arrival. The student will need to carry a copy of the completed form with them and the form will be required on arrival at the UK border, in either a printed version, or a copy on a mobile phone.

## **Travel & Testing**

When travelling to England, what is required in terms of testing and quarantine on entry depends on where that person has been before arrival.

Pippa's Guardians will always follow the current government guidelines on quarantining and will help to ensure that parents and students understand these requirements.

Please note the current Government guidance for quarantining and testing on arrival in England can be found [here](#). Rules for Wales can be found [here](#)

For the current list red countries and territories please see [here](#). The link also explains what the test and quarantine requirements are in detail.

Full details on ending a quarantine period early using Test to Release can be found [here](#)

For further details on entering the UK please see [here](#). Rules for travelling to Wales can be found [here](#).

## Red List Countries

International Boarders from red list countries are able to quarantine at their own boarding school. Guidance for boarders arriving from Red List countries allowing boarders to quarantine at school can be found [here](#).

Unfortunately, Pippa's Guardians cannot provide quarantine for students arriving from Red List countries as the quarantine **must take place at school**.

For a current list of Red List countries please see [here](#).

The Test to Release scheme **cannot** be used by students travelling from red list countries.

Please note that students travelling from or through red list countries should never quarantine with students travelling from non-red list countries.

## Residence Rights

It is confirmed that international students do have residence rights and are therefore able to enter the UK from countries on the Red List: British and Irish Nationals, or third country nationals with residence rights in the UK are able to enter the UK if they have been in or transited through a 'red list' country in the last 10 days.

Residence rights includes those with an entry clearance/visa that grants such leave e.g. students, holders of existing leave to enter or remain e.g. those students with biometric residence permits, and holders of EU Settlement Scheme ("EUSS") leave.

Unaccompanied stays in hotels are not advised and we refer you to the UKVI Student Visa Sponsor Guidance below:

The self-isolation requirements in place for Child Students must meet the safeguarding requirements as stipulated in Appendix Child Student to ensure suitable care arrangements are in place for a Child Student's care and reception within the UK.

For Child Students who are 16 or 17 years old, they are able to live independently, so if the parent consents for the Child Student to be living independently within the UK for the self-isolation period (as per the consent requirements in CS. 9) before moving to the full accommodation this would be acceptable, provided the sponsor maintained their sponsorship duties in regard to the Child Student's care and reception within the UK.

For Child Students below 16 years old, it is not acceptable for a Child Student to be placed in a hotel for the self-isolation period, this is because the care requirements in place for a Child Student under 16 must always be in accordance with one of the types of care stated in the Child Student rules:-

- Boarding at a residential boarding school
- Living in a Private Foster Care arrangement
- Living with a close relative who holds settled status within the UK (ILTR)
- Living with a Parent of a Child Student (if the Child Student is under 12)

Please talk to your Pippa's Guardians Area Manager who can support you through your options if you are unsure in any way.

### **Students returning to their home countries**

Several countries have banned or limited travel from the UK, meaning some students will be unable to return to their home country. For individual country guidance please see [here](#).

For Hong Kong – Guidance taken from the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office can be found here available [here](#).

For Japan – please see [here](#) for further details.

### **If boarding students display Covid-19 symptoms whilst at school**

Pippa's Guardians always follow the latest Public Health and government guidance. Public Health and the Department for Education advise that Covid positive or symptomatic international students should self-isolate where they show symptoms/test positive and should not be moving to different locations.

Host families and educational guardians are therefore not in a position to take over the care of students who have symptoms or have tested positive for Covid-19 at boarding school.

Schools also follow Public Health advice and that of the Safe Schools UK and BSA Charters and they understand the need to provide isolation on school premises. Further information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

### **In the event of a temporary school closure**

Where schools are unable to keep their boarding houses open, Pippa's Guardians can provide host family accommodation for healthy students.

If there is a school closure and students at the affected school are displaying symptoms and/or awaiting test results for Covid -19, Pippa's Guardians are unable to accommodate these students in host families due to the increased transmission risk to the host family and wider community.

Any such student will need to remain within the school's isolation provision until they receive a negative PCR test or are admitted to a medical facility. If a student receives a negative PCR test result, Pippa's Guardians can then look to accommodate them as stated above.

If a student develops symptoms after being placed in a host family and the school is closed, Pippa's Guardians will instigate the testing and isolation procedures found [here](#) and will continue to support the student until they complete their isolation period or are admitted to a medical facility.

If a student develops symptoms during a residential course the responsibility for the care of the student will remain with the course provider.

### **In the event of a full and prolonged school closure**

In the event of another prolonged school closure, Pippa’s Guardians would continue to follow the latest advice given at government guidance. The expected procedures are set out below.

Healthy students must ultimately and as soon as is practicable either:

- return home
- be looked after by their parents
- be looked after by another responsible adult (family friend/relative 25 years+)

Pippa’s Guardians will support the school with the student’s forward planning, providing they have not been identified as a close contact of a Covid-19 positive case or have themselves returned a positive Covid-19 test. We can provide host family accommodation for healthy students, while they make alternative accommodation arrangements. This maybe with their regular host family or an alternative family. The student may be asked to take a Covid-19 test before joining a host family.

If there is a school closure and students at the affected school are displaying symptoms and/or awaiting test results for Covid-19, Pippa’s Guardians are unable to accommodate these students in host families, due to the increased transmission risk to the host family and wider communities. Any such student will need to remain within the school’s isolation provision, until receive a negative PCR test or are admitted to a medical facility. If a student receives a negative PCR test result, Pippa’s Guardians can then look to accommodate them as stated above.

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