

## Aspire | Commit | Succeed

6 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

We are aware that there is immense coverage of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the media. I wanted to assure you that Alperton Community School is carefully monitoring the situation and whilst we wish to avoid unnecessary disruption, the health and wellbeing of everyone in our school community remains our highest priority.

The Department for Education has advised us that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England. We will update the school community if the current advice from Public Health England (PHE) and the National Health Service (NHS) changes.

We currently have no reports of anyone connected with any of our schools being infected with the virus. School trips to Europe are being kept under review in the light of guidance and parents will be informed of any changes or cancellations.

The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

We advise all current pupils, parents and staff remain aware of the advice from PHE and to inform the School immediately if any of the following apply:

- If they or anyone in their immediate family have travelled to the UK from any of the Group one or two areas listed below in the past 14 days
- If they have had visitors or any contact with anyone who has arrived in the UK from these areas within the past 14 days

**Group one countries/areas:** Hubei province in China; Iran; Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Italian government; Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea).

- If you, or anyone in your immediate family have returned from the Group one areas since February 19, you should self-isolate and call NHS 111 even if you do not have symptoms

**Group two countries/ areas:** Cambodia; Mainland China; Hong Kong; Northern Italy (not including specific lockdown areas); Japan; Laos; Macau; Malaysia; Myanmar; Republic of Korea (not including Daegu or Cheongdo); Singapore; Taiwan; Thailand; Vietnam.

If you or anyone in your immediate family have returned from the following areas since February 19th and develop symptoms, however mild, you should self-isolate and call NHS 111 immediately. You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms

We regret that we are currently unable to welcome visitors to the School if they have travelled to the UK from mainland China within the past 14 days, or have been in direct contact with anyone who has. In addition, and following the update from PHE on 25 February, we are unable to welcome visitors to the School if:

- They have travelled to the UK from any of the Group one areas listed above within the last 14 days, or been in direct contact with anyone who has.
- They have travelled to the UK from any of the Group two areas or been in direct contact with anyone who has, and are showing symptoms of coronavirus.

Anyone in any of these situations should not come to school for a period of 14 days, after which time, if no symptoms have developed, they will be welcome to return.

We hope you understand our position at this time and that we can resume our normal welcome to all visitors very soon.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely



**Gerard McKenna**  
**Headteacher**

