



# ASPIRATIONS

3 March 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

## Coronavirus advice

As reported cases of the coronavirus increase, we want to reassure you that we are following all the latest Government and NHS guidelines so that we are abreast of updates at all times. The wellbeing of our pupils, families and staff is our highest priority and we all need to be sensible and avoid risks, whilst ensuring we do not compromise the education of our pupils wherever possible. We would also like to reassure you that, if the outbreak becomes a significant issue in England, we have policies and procedures in place to be able to manage it.

Our academies have been briefed on the latest advice and will be regularly updated. So far, there have been no cases of Coronavirus in any of the Aspirations Academies. However, we are enhancing our cleaning regimes appropriately, in accordance with government guidance. There will be increased advice and guidance given to pupils and staff on hygiene control. In particular, pupils will be asked to:

- Wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser often, particularly before eating. Pupils, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
  - before leaving home
  - after taking public transport
  - on arrival at school
  - after using the toilet
  - after breaks and sporting activities
  - before food preparation
  - before eating any food, including snacks
  - before leaving school
- Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve (**not your hands**) when they cough or sneeze, and then throw the tissue in a bin;
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth if they have not washed their hands;
- Avoid sharing items such as drinks.

Please note, if you would like your son or daughter to bring hand sanitizer to school, we are happy for them to do so.

It is important that schools and families do all they can to protect pupils and staff. The official guidance for any pupil or parent who has returned from a Coronavirus hotspot, known as a 'Category One' area, since 19th February is that they should call NHS 111 to inform them of their recent travel, stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if they do not have symptoms.

These countries currently are:

- Wuhan City and Hubei Province (China)
- Iran
- Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea)
- Any Italian town under containment measures

Please inform the school if this is the case and non-attendance will of course be authorised. We have increased monitoring of staff travel and any adults who have visited regions of concern will be required to self-isolate as per official government guidance.

You do not need to undertake any special measures if you have visited the following countries in the last 14 days, however if you develop the symptoms you should self-isolate and call the NHS on 111:

- Cambodia
- China\* (except for areas of the country specifically referred to above)
- Hong Kong
- Italy: north\* (except for specific towns under containment measures, as mentioned above)
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Republic of Korea\* (except for areas of the country specifically referred to above)
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

The key message is that we do not want to take risks but also need to be sensible so that the education of our pupils is not unnecessarily compromised. This advice may be subject to change, depending on developments.

Updated information can be found on your relevant Aspirations Academy website. Furthermore, the Government has now also set up a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 (the Coronavirus) related to education that is available for staff, parents and young people. The number is 0800 046 8687 and the line is currently open 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

An outbreak such as this obviously has the potential to cause alarm across our communities, but does need to be kept in perspective. We hope that the measures outlined in this letter will help to reassure you that our schools are following official guidance and managing the situation professionally and appropriately.

Yours faithfully,

The Aspirations Academies Trust