

Dear Families,

First and foremost, thank you for being our partner in supporting a healthy school community. We understand that in the event a new virus surfaces, as with the recent Coronavirus, there can be lots of anxiety and stress associated with the spread and potential impact to our community. It is important to stay informed and rely on credible sources including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), national and local health departments.

With that said, this is a rapidly evolving situation. As of January 30, the WHO declared the Coronavirus a global health emergency. Although the CDC continues to classify the risk to U.S. citizens as “low,” it has raised the travel advisory to its highest level, Level 3 (Red), warning against all non-essential travel to China, and the U.S. Department of State has declared a Level 4 - Do Not Travel to China alert.

Currently, the CDC is only recommending a quarantine of individuals who develop symptoms of the Coronavirus. However, out of an abundance of caution, while respecting the rights of all our families, we are proactively implementing a policy from this point forward that protects our community in a respectful and thoughtful manner. Therefore, we would like to ask the following of you:

- Follow CDC travel advisory which warns against all non-essential travel to China.
- If any individuals in your households are returning from China, we would ask that they voluntarily quarantine themselves for 14 days. This may mean staying away from children, so that children may continue to attend school. This may also apply to guests visiting your home who traveled from China.
- If your family (including students) are returning from travel to China, as of today, we ask that you voluntarily keep your student(s) home from school for 14 days. Every effort will be made to assist students in keeping up on schoolwork and easing their transition back to school after the quarantine period. During this period, students will have excused absences from school.

We remind our families, our students and our staff that we are a strong, supportive community, and we need to take care of ourselves, and each other during this time of uncertainty. While we cannot and will not make these requirements mandatory, we do ask that, in the spirit of community, you do what is best for everyone.

At school, we will continue to monitor recommendations from the CDC, WHO, as well as state and local health departments. We will also continue to reinforce with students at all grade levels the importance of prevention, and we ask our families to please support these best practices at home:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash or sanitize hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

To help keep our community healthy, we remind parents never to mask a fever with Tylenol or Advil in order to send a sick student to school. The student's illness could get worse, and they could make many other students, teachers, and staff sick.

Please be advised that we will continue to strictly enforce our policy of requiring children with a fever to stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. If your child becomes sick at school, you will be called immediately and expected to take your child home within one hour.

Remember, if you have any health related questions or concerns, please contact your health care practitioner. We sincerely appreciate everyone's continued efforts to stay healthy during this flu season.

Thank you