



COVID-19 Response Team

- This team met on Wednesday, March 11 to coordinate our communication and response to the evolving COVID-19 dynamic.
- Mr. Grawunder, Mrs. Gabel, Mrs. Lowery-Hart, Mr. Barnett, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Voiles, Mr. Dave Sargus, Mr. Bicknell

Questions we aimed to answer

- What do we know as of now?
- What are the current or possible future pressure points?
- What do we need to plan for?
- What do we need to communicate with our community?
- When would we close school or cancel events?
- What about MS Class Trips
- How can parents help?

What do we know as of Thursday, March 12?

- 1321 known cases in the US have been reported.
- 23 cases (none in the Panhandle) and no deaths have been reported in Texas.
- The average age of individuals who have contracted COVID-19 - Male (70), Female (83)
- The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic yesterday. While it met their criteria (new, lack of immunity, area of coverage) for a pandemic, this did represent a big change in the current state of affairs. Rather, it cleared more funding to combat its spread.
- AISD has suspended out of state Travel and any travel outside of 300-mile radius.
- COVID-19 lives on surfaces, but the range we've heard is from 2 hrs to 9 days. This feeds the unknown factor with this virus.
- There is a strong cultural context emerging with large event canceling taking place on a state and national level. State public and private universities moving to remote learning for the remainder of the semester adds to the public sentiments at this time.
- Amarillo Department of Public Health sends area institutions updated reports every Thursday.

What are the current or possible future pressure points?

- The following factors would present as pressure points for the school.
 - Any confirmed cases in the Amarillo area
 - Individuals at higher risk being compromised within our community
 - Spring Break Travels to Level 2 or 3 countries (We are unaware of any at this time.)
 - April Tennis/Golf Meets (If the spread of the virus intensifies.)
 - Communal nature of Chapel/Eucharist

- Any local PK-12 school closures
- FAAB Rentals (If there's a reported case in the Amarillo area.)
- Field Trips to area Nursing Homes/Care Facilities (Due to compromised individuals at the facilities.)
- MS Class Trips

What do we need to plan for?

- The following areas were identified as the most immediate needs to plan for as a community.
 - The potential of an extended school closure or event canceling
 - Distance Learning Options for 3rd-8th Grade, Learning Resources Primer-2nd
 - Routine Bus Cleaning
 - Increased Presence of Frisbie Janitorial Service w/ CDC approved disinfectants
 - Self-Distancing vs. Self-Quarantine Procedures

What do we need to communicate with our community?

- We ask for your partnership to self-report any possible interaction your family has had with individuals who have contracted COVID-19. As of now, the only restrictions we are putting in place are for individuals traveling to Warning Levels 2 or 3 countries. Those include China, Iran, South Korea, Italy, and Japan.
 - If you travel to Warning Level 2 or 3 countries, we ask that you report this to the school and voluntarily self-quarantine your family for 14 days.
- We will continue to follow the guidance of government agencies regarding school closures and event canceling.
- We will encourage you to stay informed through the CDC, the Johns Hopkins CSSE Coronavirus map, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Amarillo Departments of Public Health.
 - [CDC](#)
 - [Johns Hopkins CSSE](#)
 - [Texas DSHS](#)
 - [ADPH](#)
- Regarding our practices at Chapel, please note the following.
 - Whenever the sign of peace is exchanged, rather than shaking hands, we will now greet one another through simple gestures such as a smile, eye contact, a simple bow of the head, a wave, or by tapping elbows as we always do in ordinary flu season.
 - During the sharing of the Eucharist, the use of a common chalice will be discontinued, and, for now, we will simply participate in Eucharist through the receiving of wafers which will be given in our hands, not placed upon our tongues.
 - All Eucharistic ministers will wash their hands with soap and water before the service and will use hand sanitizers before handling the communion bread.
 - As always, those who do not wish to receive communion may still come forward and receive a blessing.

- We are implementing increased time for Frisbie Janitorial Services to be on campus to clean all high-touch services including doorknobs, banisters, and desks.
- Please note our hand sanitizers and cleaning supplies are CDC approved to kill COVID-19.

When would we close school or cancel events?

- While this is a fluid situation, right now, we don't believe we would close school unless we have a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our student, parent/guardian, or faculty community.
- In the event of a school closure...
 - We are developing a page for our website that will provide comprehensive information on our response in the event of a school closure.
 - We are developing remote learning plans that will provide for active learning for our students **if the school is not in session for more than 3 days.** This will include online learning opportunities for 3rd-8th grade students and learning resources provided to parents for Primer-2nd grade students.
- We will be sending a Google Form home to all parents by app notification and email to be completed before the end of the day on Friday regarding device/internet access at home. We are not wanting to take anything for granted in our approach.

What about MS Class Trips?

- We will make a final decision on class trips by April 17. It is our hope that four weeks from now the situation regarding domestic travel will have significantly improved. **Please note that any final payments do not have to be paid until April 17.**
- The Board of Trustees will be involved in that decision as well. This is consistent with Board policies regarding school travel beyond a 500-mile radius of the school.
- ***Please note the trends of area schools is to cancel school trips. We remain very cautious and mildly optimistic in our approach. We will take our lead from the U.S. government agencies, especially those listed above (CDC, Texas DSHS, and the ADPH).***

How can you help as a parent?

- Keep the lines of communication open with your children and with the school. You are your child's source of strength and safety. We are your partners in supporting you in the education of your children.
- Start planning now for how your family would manage a school closure with attention to "social distancing." Note this is defined as "maintaining three feet distance between you and someone who is coughing or sneezing."
- Review with your family common-sense preventive actions including covering of coughs and sneezes and washing hands often (and for 20 seconds).
- Ensure you have good practices in place for your child to complete schoolwork at home. Securing a quiet space without significant distractions is an important starting point.
- Help your child come up with healthy strategies to connect with friends, as well as ways to get exercise.
- Consider how to limit your child's use of electronics as students may gravitate to more screen time during school closure.

