



By this time, most, if not all of us, have heard of and been paying attention to the media coverage of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Over the past several weeks, as a school, we have been gathering information through local and national health organizations, participating in community forums and webinars, and having internal conversations. We wanted to inform the community of what we have learned, our practices that support our community's well-being, and what steps you can take as a family as we track the spread of the Coronavirus.

Consider the following.

- We are blessed with outstanding contracted cleaning services with Frisbie Janitorial Service. We have confirmed their commitment to the highest standards of cleaning. The supplier of our disinfectant wipes also confirmed they are labeled to kill the human coronavirus.
- We reached out to the tour companies managing our Middle School Class Trips. They report current tourist activity has not been affected by the outbreak. The consistent message we have been hearing is that unless the government restricts travel that our companies would not cancel any trips. ***At this time, as a school, we will follow that same guideline.***
  - We will also ask families to provide a doctor's note for any traveling child who has been sick within two weeks of the class trip.
  - We do encourage all MS families to consider purchasing travel insurance for these trips. Mr. Grawunder and Mrs. Lowery-Hart are gathering a bit more information on travel insurance and will communicate with MS families in the next couple of days.

In regards to what we have learned from community forums and webinars, most of the information affirms the good practices we already have in place and a good dose of common sense. Consider the following.

- Our faculty reinforce every day the use of hand sanitizer and the routine washing of hands.
- We continuously monitor trends in student health and attendance in the main office.
  - Following the practice of peer schools, we will be screening students if they report to the Main Office with a fever or respiratory issues. That screening will include simple questions about if the student or anyone in their family has traveled recently.
- We will continue to follow the advice given by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the Amarillo Department of Public Health.

What can you do as a family? Please consider the following precautions.

- Everything we are hearing is to continue encouraging the great personal hygiene habits that we, as families, would routinely encourage. We also encourage you to not send your children to school if they are sick. ***Remember, a child must be fever-free, without the aid of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours before returning to school.***

- Please monitor the CDC's [Travel Advisories](#) as you consider your family's Spring Break and/or business travel.
- In order to safeguard the health of our entire community, we are requesting that all parents and guardians inform us if your children will be traveling outside the U.S. through the end of the school year. Following recommendations from the CDC, ***any student who travels to a country designated by the CDC as a "Warning Level 3" area will be subject upon their return to a 14-day period of self-isolation away from school. Students will be allowed to return to school with a doctor's note indicated they are safe to return.***

While the future spread of the Coronavirus may necessitate further action ranging from short-term school closure to canceling of school activities, that is not called for right now. We will continue to be measured, and decisive as needed, in our response. As always, we are blessed by our partnership with you. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.