



The Elisabeth Morrow School

HEALTH UPDATE

There has been increasing coverage and concern regarding the risks of COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus. This is an evolving situation and one to which we are paying very close attention. At the current time, the risk of infection is considered low. It is reassuring that there are currently no documented cases in New Jersey and there is mounting evidence that children seem less vulnerable.

To ensure the safety of our community, effectively immediately, we are implementing the following measures:

- All EMS families and caregivers, both current and new, and faculty and staff, traveling to and from Level 2 and Level 3 countries as classified by the CDC (see below), or hosting guests from these countries, may not return to campus until they have completed a 14-day self-quarantine period, have been seen by a physician, and have a doctor's note.
- As a new country is added, we will communicate that with the school community.
- During the 14-day quarantine period, Division Heads will be in touch with parents regarding remote student learning.
- For any student experiencing anxiety, our Health Professional Team is available to help alleviate your child's concerns and will follow-up with the parents.

The CDC has classified countries into three warning levels:

Level 3: South Korea and China. All non-essential travel to these countries should be avoided.

Level 2: Japan, Italy, and Iran. These countries are experiencing sustained community spread of coronavirus, which can spread from person to person.

Level 1: Hong Kong. Practice the usual precautions.

All families are asked to complete this survey by Monday, March 2, 2020. As the risk of infection is low, we still need to be proactive in case we need to close our school. Our Health and Safety Team is meeting daily and will send updates to our community. Please visit the [CDC](#), [WHO](#), and the [NJ Department of Health](#) websites for the most up-to-date information on this developing situation. If your child is asking questions, [this article](#) offers advice on having a panic-free conversation about the coronavirus.

These safety measures have already been implemented at EMS and in the classrooms:

Handshaking has been suspended. It's a simple act of courtesy that shows respect to members of our community, however in light of the public health alert, we have suspended this tradition until further notice.

Promoting hand-washing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. To prevent the spread of germs, rip your paper towel before you turn the faucet on, and use an extra paper towel to open the bathroom door.

Using alcohol-based hand rub if you are not able to use soap and water. Carry a small bottle of hand-sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and use it after you touch items that are frequently used by other students and staff.

Avoiding contact with someone else's personal items. This includes laptops, pencils,

desks, books, musical instruments, etc.

Covering your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing. Use a tissue (and throw it away after use) or flexed elbow. Do not cough or sneeze into your hands. Wash your hands afterward.

Staying home if you are feeling sick. Students, faculty, and staff are recommended to stay home and not come to school until they are free of fever (100 degrees F or greater), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing and other symptom-altering medicines.

The CDC suggests these additional prevention guidelines:

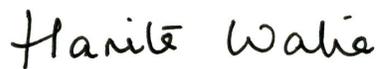
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wear a face mask if you show symptoms to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

In our critical efforts to maintain the health of our learning community members, our school medical staff will be closely tracking student and faculty health and will alert parents if their child exhibits any of the symptoms associated with the coronavirus, which includes fever, cough, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing (and may appear between 2-14 days after exposure). Individual Division Heads will be sending out more communication regarding illness prevention and their specific grade levels.

Sincerely,



Dr. Maureen Fonseca
Head of School



Hanita Walia
President, Board of Trustees

STAY CONNECTED

