



The Elisabeth Morrow School

HEALTH UPDATE

As we continue to actively monitor the outbreak of COVID-19, also known as novel coronavirus, our newly formed Health and Safety Team is meeting daily to discuss processes and protocols relating to this health issue.

Our highest priority is ensuring the health and safety of our community. Each division on our campus is following best practices protocols in addition to those [recommended by the CDC](#).

- All students, family members, visitors, caregivers, faculty members, and specialists must wash their hands with soap and water upon entry into a classroom. Hand-washing with soap and water is always the best option, but antibacterial gel is available if running water and soap is not, such as when children are on the playground. Antibacterial gel will not be used for our 3- and 4-year-olds who are still thumb or finger sucking.
- Our janitorial team is aware of elevated health concerns on campus and is responding appropriately. Commonly touched areas, such as doorknobs, push bars, light switches, and handles are being disinfected daily. We are also sanitizing and disinfecting learning spaces and materials. Toys are disinfected on a weekly basis.
- Faculty will wear disposable gloves when handling food, just as they do for medical reasons (like helping a child who has a bloody nose), handling bodily fluids (like helping a child blow his nose), and assisting with toileting (for children in Chilton House).

We are working on a plan for remote learning in the event of an extended school closure. To help us understand the needs of each student, we ask that families complete [this brief survey](#) about internet connectivity and technology available in your home. This is the same survey that was sent in our Friday, February 28 school-wide message, so please take a moment to complete it if you have not yet had the chance to do so.

Please remember that the following mandate was enacted on Friday, February 28 :

- 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, China, Italy, and Iran. All non-essential travel to these countries should be avoided.

Level 2: Japan. This country is experiencing a sustained community spread of coronavirus, which can spread from person to person.

Level 1: Hong Kong. Practice the usual precautions.

Finally, to better understand coronavirus and to talk to our children about this health concern without causing anxiety, I suggest you read the CDC's [frequently asked questions and answers relating to coronavirus and children](#) and *The New York Times* articles on how to talk to your [young children](#), and [teens and tweens](#) about coronavirus.

If you have any questions and concerns, please email our Health and Safety Team at emshealthandsafetyteam@elisabethmorrow.org.

Sincerely,



Dr. Maureen Fonseca
Head of School

STAY CONNECTED

