



# The Elisabeth Morrow School

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: PLEASE READ

Since January 30, we have been sharing coronavirus (COVID-19) updates from the CDC, WHO, and from our Health and Safety Team. Our team meets daily to discuss information that has been shared with us by health officials, the news media, and other schools in New Jersey and New York and to strategically map out plans that best protect our students and faculty.

In light of the fact that most of us don't know if we have been exposed, we are taking steps to protect our community. **We have decided to proactively close EMS starting at the end of today's school day, Tuesday, March 10, and effectively begin spring break.** All activities starting after school today and throughout this week are canceled except for childcare that will close at 6 p.m. today. **Families are permitted to pick up their child(ren) earlier if they wish.** We believe that this is the best course of action to protect the health and safety of our students, families, faculty, and staff. This action will presumptively slow the transmission rate of COVID-19 within our school community in case anyone at EMS has had any crossover with other schools and community organizations.

The early closure may cause some anxiety for our students. We would like to share a link from the [Child Mind Institute](#) and a PDF from [The National Association of School Psychologists](#) to help provide good information on how to speak to your children about coronavirus.

**We are asking students to take home with them anything that they might need if our school needs to stay closed beyond spring break.** Students must empty out their lockers today and bring home their computers, musical instruments, books, and other educational materials to support their class assignments. All Chilton House students must bring home any belongings in their cubbies at this time as well. If your child is not in school today, items can be picked up on Thursday or Friday. Please check in at your division reception.

**To reiterate, spring break will begin for students at the end of today's school day.** Faculty and staff will be on campus Thursday and Friday for professional development to advance their preparations for remote learning if it's required after the break. All EMS buildings and facilities will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected tomorrow, March 11. **Entry into the school is not possible starting tomorrow and throughout the spring break.**

**As we have been communicating, families, faculty, and staff who are traveling to CDC Level 2 or Level 3 countries or have visitors from these countries over spring break are required to self-quarantine for 14 days after returning to the United States. That requirement will remain in place after spring break.**

All families are asked to complete [this questionnaire](#) regarding spring break plans by today, and another [brief questionnaire](#) about internet connectivity and technology available in your home if you have not already done so.

Event status for the following weeks is as follows:

**Canceled:** March 16-20: Spring break mini-camp

**Canceled:** March 30-April 2: Eighth-grade Washington, D.C. trip

**Postponed:** April 1: Secondary School Orientation for rising eighth-graders (new date:

April 8)

If you would like the most up-to-date information about coronavirus, please visit the [CDC](#) and [WHO](#) websites or call the New Jersey Department of Health's coronavirus hotline at 1-800-222-1222. All of our communications regarding this health issue, including past emails, are available in the [Wednesday Envelope](#).

**As of now, we plan to resume classes on Monday, March 30.** But we will continue to monitor the situation and will communicate with our EMS community by Friday, March 27, if anything changes.

If you would like this document translated or have additional questions and concerns, please email our Health and Safety Team at [emshealthandsafetyteam@elisabethmorrow.org](mailto:emshealthandsafetyteam@elisabethmorrow.org).

Sincerely,



**Dr. Maureen Fonseca**  
Head of School

STAY CONNECTED

