February 28, 2020

Dear Families,

I understand that news reports about the rapid spread of the coronavirus have raised concerns about a possible outbreak in our communities and you should know that we take these concerns seriously.

Protecting the health and safety of our students is a top priority. So let me tell you what our schools are doing to remain safe for team members and students. We are:

1. Working with city and county health officials who are closely monitoring the spread of the disease and updating our emergency response protocols should the virus spread to our communities. To date, only one person in Los Angeles County has tested positive for the virus.

2. Sharing the facts about this new strain of the virus (Covid-19) to prevent the spread of misinformation and ensure that all students feel safe and remain focused on learning. To that end, we encourage you to have conversations with your child where you listen to their concerns and share the facts about this disease. Below are answers to commonly asked questions.

3. Reminding everyone of our health and wellness policies outlined in the employee and family handbooks and asking you, our families, to model and encourage your children to practice good hygiene. By practicing good hygiene, we can protect ourselves against the extremely low chance that we might be exposed to coronavirus. These same steps will also guard us against the seasonal influenza, which is more widespread and lethal than coronavirus.

   • Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water;
   • Avoid unnecessary touching of your eyes, nose, or mouth after washing your hands;
   • Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue or sleeve, not your hand.

4. Lastly, we want to remind you that if your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, please keep them home, call to notify us, and seek medical care:

   • Fever
   • Cough
   • Shortness of breath

As we learn more about this virus and its spread, our schools will continue to share information and take the necessary precautions to ensure that all staff and students are safe. We appreciate your understanding and support. If you have additional questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact your school’s main office.

Sincerely,

Adriana Abich
Chief Executive Officer
The Coronavirus Outbreak: Commonly Asked Questions*

• **What is the coronavirus?**
The coronavirus can infect both animals and people and can cause a range of respiratory illnesses from the common cold to more dangerous conditions like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS. This new strain of coronavirus hasn’t been identified before in humans.

• **How worried should I be?**
New outbreaks in Asia, Europe and the Middle East are renewing fears of a global pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned that Americans should brace for the likelihood that the virus will spread within U.S. communities.

• **How do I keep myself and my family safe?**
Washing your hands frequently and reminding children to do the same is the most important thing you can do, along with staying at home when you or your child are sick.

• **Where has the virus spread?**
The virus, which originated in Wuhan, China, has sickened more than 80,000 people in at least 33 countries, including Italy, Iran and South Korea, and killed 2,801 of those people. As of Feb. 28, the U.S. had 60 confirmed cases of the virus.

• **How contagious is the virus?**
According to preliminary research, it seems moderately infectious and is probably transmitted through sneezes, coughs and contaminated surfaces. Scientists have estimated that each infected person could spread it to somewhere between 1.5 and 3.5 people without effective containment measures.

• **If children or adults come to school sick, how will the school respond?**
We are advising staff members and parents, as we always do, not to come to school if they may be sick. Instead, they should seek medical attention and return to school when they are healthy again. If children are sent to school sick, we will call the child’s parent and ask them to pick up their child and take them home for the wellbeing of the child and students and staff at the school.

• **Who is working to contain the virus?**
World Health Organization officials have been working with officials in China, where growth has slowed. In California, health officials are working with the federal government to expand the testing of possible coronavirus patients.