

Dear RPA Family,

We sincerely thank you for your continued care and partnership as together we help raise, and protect, tomorrow's leaders today!

On Tuesday, February 25, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) gave a press conference updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and what steps should be taken moving forward. The CDC emphasized that there is **not currently a coronavirus pandemic**, and at this time the number of cases across the U.S. is relatively small. However, as you are all likely aware, the first death in the U.S. from the coronavirus (COVID-19) was confirmed on Saturday in Washington State. Given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we are monitoring developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions daily. Although we have no reported cases within our school communities at this time, our planning and response will be grounded in directives from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and local and state governmental organizations.

#### **Current Guidance:**

Of course, our highest priority is ensuring the health and safety of every member of our community. As you know, the most effective way to stay healthy and minimize the spread of infectious disease is to follow, and reinforce with your children, basic health best-practices like:

- Enforcing hygiene like washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds and covering up coughs and sneezes with your arm.
- Stay at home and keep your children home when ill.
- Ensuring that all faculty, staff, and students who are feeling ill will stay home for **at least 24 hours, fever-free, without the need of fever-reducing medicines**. A full 24-hour period without fevers *and* without fever-reducing medicine is required prior to the return to school. That means that, for example, if your child presents with a fever on a Monday at 11am, the earliest he/she would be able to return to school would be Wednesday, assuming that he/she is fever free ALL of Tuesday without the need for fever-reducing medicine. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, most pediatricians consider a temperature above 100.4F as a sign of a fever (<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/fever/Pages/Signs-and-Symptoms-of-Fever.aspx>).
- Seek immediate medical care if symptoms become more severe, e.g., high fever or difficulty breathing.

#### **Our policy pertaining specifically to the coronavirus is:**

- If your family (including any children who attend RPA) travels to any country (or state) listed in the [CDC's travel advisories](#), we ask that you keep your student(s) home from school for 14 days from the date of return. Every effort will be made to assist students in keeping up on schoolwork and easing their transition back to school after the quarantine period.
- If any individuals in your household travel to any country (or state) listed in the [CDC's travel advisories](#), we ask that they quarantine themselves for 14 days from the date of their return. This may mean staying away from children, so that the children may continue to attend school.

- As further clarification, we request that if individuals in your household are under self-quarantine in your home, please keep your children home for the same 14-day period, beginning on the day the individuals return. Again, every effort will be made to assist students in keeping up on schoolwork and easing their transition back to school after the quarantine period.

**Resources:**

If you have questions regarding coronavirus symptoms, prevention and treatment -- consult these official resources: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019><https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

Also, given the level of media attention to the coronavirus, some children may become anxious and have concerns about the virus and its transmission. These [tips for talking with children about the coronavirus](#) may be helpful to you and your family (please note: This article contains January's statistics regarding the spread of the virus). Know that all RPA faculty and staff will take every effort to not cause undue stress for your children.

In times like this, we are particularly grateful for the strength and togetherness of our community. Please be assured that further communications from us will continue in the event new information directly impacts our local or school community.

Let us not forget the power of prayer as we continue to trust in the Lord's providence for all of our needs and concerns.

Thank you again for your partnership!

In His service,

*Scott J. Baier*

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Head of School