Dear Highlander Families,

The global status of the coronavirus (COVID-19) is evolving daily, and LHPS is taking a thoughtful, deliberate approach to the situation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the many families around the world who have been affected by this crisis. We are especially mindful of our own families for whom this issue may be a prominent worry or concern.

Our staff is continually monitoring news reports as well as governmental and health agencies’ communications. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is working closely with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor COVID-19, and is actively working to ensure that the most up-to-date CDC guidance is quickly and accurately disseminated. Today, we are sharing the most recent information available and informing you about our school’s actions and plans. Importantly, at this time the risk remains low in Florida, and there are currently no reported school closures.

TRAVEL
In addition to closely monitoring news and travel recommendations from health and governmental agencies, we are also communicating with our accreditation agencies and our independent school colleagues around the country. LHPS has several domestic and international trips planned in the next few weeks. We will continue to monitor the CDC guidelines regarding both domestic and foreign travel, and as conditions evolve, we will communicate promptly with families and students scheduled on these trips to share updates or changes. As of today, no trips have been cancelled.

As Spring Break approaches, we strongly recommend families to not travel to locations with CDC or U.S. Department of State Level 3 alerts or higher (see CDC Travel Guidelines). Based on the CDC’s current guidelines, a person who has visited a country elevated to Level 3 may encounter re-entry restrictions and must self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to campus.

PREVENTIVE ACTIONS ON OUR CAMPUSES
A concentrated focus on prevention and precautionary measures continues on both of our campuses in order to help protect our students and employees:
• Several weeks ago, we initiated more aggressive sanitation measures by our Facilities crews to thoroughly clean and frequently wipe down commonly touched surfaces, including desks, doors, public spaces, and bathroom fixtures. These efforts will continue.
• We are purposely educating students and employees about best hygiene practices to help decrease the spread of any flu or virus. On both campuses, we have posted educational posters and notices about handwashing techniques, covering one’s mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, avoiding touching one’s eyes, nose and mouth, and staying home if sick.
• We have stocked all classrooms with sanitizing supplies.
• We have started treating all classrooms with hospital-grade virucide.
• Additional portable handwashing stations will soon be installed on campus.

REMOTE LEARNING PLAN
A plan for remote learning options is being developed in case at some point in the future we need to temporarily close the school. Our Lower, Middle, and Upper School administrators and faculty members have been working with our technology team to ensure all Highlanders have an opportunity to continue their educational progress and not experience a gap in learning if a school closure is deemed necessary.

**STEPS TO AVOID ILLNESS**
In several prior emails, we have shared common, practical protocols to avoid illness. Best practices to help prevent or minimize illness include:

- Getting a flu shot and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.
- Staying home when you are sick.
- Frequently washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and then drying them completely. If you cannot wash your hands, using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer is recommended.
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If no tissue is available, attempt to cough or sneeze in the crook of your arm.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth – germs easily spread!
- Monitoring your symptoms.

Reports about this virus are dominating the news cycle and airwaves, and our principal focus remains the education, health and welfare of your children. Children take their cues from adults, so we encourage you to monitor your child’s engagement in the topic and help them understand what they are seeing or hearing to avoid unnecessary anxiety. The resources listed below may be helpful in how to best understand and explain the current crisis.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) website. This site has general information and a video on the coronaviruses.
- U.S. State Department website
- Johns Hopkins Medicine, [Coronavirus Disease 2019 v. the Flu](https://www.who.int/zh/coronavirus-en)
- Child Mind: [Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus](https://www.childmind.org/blog/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus)

Thank you for your continued partnership with us. As your children’s educational home, be assured we are focused on preventing this virus and thoughtfully preparing for various scenarios that ensure a healthy school and a safe, comfortable learning.

Warmest regards,

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