

Science Language & Arts

March 6, 2020

Dear families,

SLA continues to work closely with relevant city agencies on all preventative and responsive measures as we vigilantly prepare for all possible scenarios related to the spread of COVID-19. We are continuously monitoring any possible impact to our school community and will share updates as we receive them.

Because we know the virus is transferring within communities in our area, we ask that families be alert for symptoms of possible COVID-19, namely:

- Fever
- Cough
- Lower respiratory function (shortness of breath)

There is no evidence that children are more susceptible, however older adults and individuals who are immunocompromised or have underlying conditions appear to be at greater risk for more serious illness. [The Centers for Disease Control](#) provides information on what to do if you or someone in your family is considered higher risk. Please call your doctor for advice should you or a family member become ill.

We ask that any individual that has traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread (Level 3 Travel Health Notice) to follow the [CDC's recommendation](#) to stay home for a period of 14 days. Currently those areas are: China, Iran, Italy and South Korea.

SLA is taking the following precautions to limit the possibility of exposure to COVID-19:

- Our cleaning service specifically disinfects all tables, countertops, toilets, sinks and other targeted areas each evening in addition to general cleaning.
- High touch surfaces like doorknobs, handrails, and elevator panels are disinfecting twice a day during school hours.
- We're asking families, staff, and teachers to continue to thoroughly wash hands multiple times a day and avoid touching their faces. We have posted improved signage including CDC-recommended hand-washing protocol near the bathrooms. Please wash your hands when you arrive at school!

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- We have stocked increased supplies of soap, disinfectant, and paper towels for school use.
- Teachers and staff are monitoring children (and each other) for any relevant symptoms at all times

For updates, we recommend the following resources:

- [Latest COVID-19 updates from NYC Department of Education](#)
- [Department of Health and Mental Hygiene updates, including NYC Case Count](#)
- [Rolling updates from World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

Resources for talking with children about COVID-19:

- [A parent resource from the National Association of School Psychologists](#)
- [Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus \(NPR.org\)](#)
- [How to Talk to Kids About Coronavirus](#)

Finally, racism and xenophobia is on the rise as related to COVID-19. Let's practice making anti-racist and anti-bias conversations part of our everyday lives. SLA's Equity Committee is ready to support families with specific or general questions. In the meantime, a few resources to consider:

- [New ad raises awareness of corona-based racism](#)
- [When xenophobia spreads like a virus](#) (NPR)
- Infographic from DC Health (attached)

Please contact us any time, for any reason. Wishing you a restful weekend!

Warm regards,
Kate Johnstone, Parent Coordinator
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