

Dear CESJDS Community Members,

Information about the outbreak of Coronavirus in China, its spread to the U.S., and other areas of the world is evolving rapidly. CESJDS is monitoring the situation and taking actions aimed at keeping our community safe and healthy. We are writing to give you an update on our actions and planning.

Yesterday, the CDC asked all Americans to be prepared for the potential spread of the virus in the United States. At CESJDS we will perform additional cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and restrooms throughout both campuses. We receive valuable updates from the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington (AISGW) and Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools on how to prepare. We are participating in webinars for independent schools around the Coronavirus and planning to address any developments with the potential spread of the virus. We are also consulting with pediatricians in our area.

Finally, it is imperative that we all do our part to reduce the danger of infection by observing best practices for preventing incidences of the flu and other illnesses within our CESJDS community. We want to remind everyone that, as always, we strongly recommend that anyone who is ill or thinks they may be ill should stay home from school and seek medical care, as necessary. Students should not return to school until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication. This policy applies to everyone, every year, and we want to emphasize this practice today. The flu season is at its peak right now, and this alone would warrant such caution. Please communicate directly with the school nurse if there is a health concern related to the flu or with any other communicable illness. This information will help us monitor the spread of infection throughout our community.

We are sharing what we believe is an excellent resource from the CDC website with basic information about the Coronavirus and how to prevent it. You may find this information by clicking [here](#). As with the flu, the following basic good practices are the best ones to follow to prevent getting sick.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough and cough into your arm or elbow.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

We will plan to share and remind students in school about these good practices. We will also continue to provide updates of any changes at school and with respect to changing conditions if necessary.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Mitchel Malkus
Head of School

Natasha Oksenhendler, RN
Head Nurse

Heather Greenblum, RN
Upper School Nurse