



February 28, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you have likely seen, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated the country on the current status of the coronavirus, COVID-19. The CDC emphasized that the number of cases in the US is very small, but the situation is still evolving on the global landscape.

We continue to monitor all information from the [CDC](#), the [NYS Department of Health](#) and [NYC Health](#). At this time, it is important to listen to facts and not respond to fear. Currently there are no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in New York City and the risk to New Yorkers remains low. Nonetheless, Day School and MAPC leadership have been discussing the potential action that could become necessary in the case of an outbreak in New York City, and are coordinating our planning efforts. On a broader scale, we have also been in conversation with the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) as well as our peer schools here in the city.

The measures that are put in place should local person-to-person transmissions begin will depend on the number of individuals affected and the general severity of illness we experience in our city. There are no plans to close schools at this time. This is an extreme measure that can be disruptive to day-to-day life, and the decision to implement will be at the direction of public health experts. For now, our focus is on general disease prevention. We have been deep cleaning the building, as well as classroom materials and surfaces. Teachers have been reviewing hand washing routines with the children, as this is the most effective way to prevent the spread of harmful germs. It's important to remember common sense guidelines for good health and safety, including frequent, thorough hand washing, paying special attention to flu-like symptoms and fevers, and protectively covering sneezes and coughs without using one's hands. (We teach children to sneeze/cough into their elbows instead.) We ask that you partner with us in our efforts by keeping children home when they aren't feeling well and not sending them back to school until they are fully recuperated.

For additional information about COVID-19 and how it spreads, please refer to this [FAQ](#) sheet from the Department of Health. Additional information is also available through [InternationalSOS.com](#). We anticipate that many of our community members will travel over our upcoming Spring Break and urge you to consult the [CDC's travel advisories](#) for updates as you plan your destination.

It is important to note that the overwhelming media attention to this particular health threat can cause confusion and anxiety in children. Please be mindful of what information your child is exposed to. As children take cues from their loved adults, it is essential that we all strive to maintain our own composure during these unsettling times. This [article](#), though published a few weeks ago, describes how to talk to children about the coronavirus without instilling panic. Our teachers will respond to children's comments and questions in a similar vein and will also continue to listen for misinformation or potentially biased

opinions towards any racial or ethnic group related to the virus, and will help them adjust their understandings as needed.

We will continue to monitor and communicate about any possible impact to our school routines as this situation unfolds. In the meantime, we wish you and your family a wonderful, healthy weekend!

Adrienne Wing, Associate Director and Director of Exmissions

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