



March 9, 2020

Dear Parents,

As the spread of COVID-19 continues, we are writing to provide you with an update of what precautions we are taking at school and what safety practices we have established.

In the classroom, teachers and building staff continue to focus on habits which ensure the health of our community and decrease the chance of spreading illness, including frequent, thorough hand washing with children, encouraging proper cough/sneeze etiquette, reminding children to refrain from touching their faces, drinking from disposable cups or personal water bottles, and frequent cleaning of surfaces and materials. Children should stay home when sick and be cough and fever free without the use of cough suppressants and fever reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

As of today, all events scheduled at school this week will proceed as planned. However, we will adjust as needed, depending on recommendations from local health experts. Please be extra alert to any email correspondence from the school this week.

We continue to monitor CDC and DOH updates and will follow their recommendations on school closures. We urge you also to stay current on these updates, especially as you consider travel during the upcoming Spring Break. This CDC page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> provides a global interactive risk assessment map and detailed information regarding risk assessment levels issued for countries around the world, which should be consulted when making plans. Currently, China, Iran, South Korea and Italy have Level 3 designations which states that non-essential travel should be avoided. Japan has a Level 2 designation which recommends THAT older adults and those who have chronic medical conditions postpone travel. ***If you travel to a country listed by the CDC as either Level 2 or 3, or are knowingly exposed to the virus, we ask that you self-quarantine for 14 days at home after leaving that country.*** It is likely that the list of locations will change before or during the break, *especially here in the States* where cases are increasing, so staying current on information is critical. When thinking about travel, please consider the essential nature of your plans and the potential risk of infection and of quarantine either at your destination or when you return home. Children who display symptoms such as fever, shortness of breath or coughing may not return to school without a doctor's written clearance. Similarly, we ask that adults with these symptoms refrain from entering the building. Your support is essential as we strive to maintain the health and safety of all members of our community.

Please note, that because this is a dynamic situation, our recommendations and policies may evolve over time based on federal and state health policies.

Several websites are linked below for your use, including the Department of Health, and various resources for talking to children about the virus from the National Association of School Psychologists, the New York Times and Child Mind Institute.

Our city has a long history of persevering through challenge, and we are confident that strong spirit will continue to sustain us through these uncertain times. We greatly appreciate your partnership as we work to safeguard the community's well-being.

Adrienne Wing, Associate Director and Director of Exmissions
The Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School
921 Madison Avenue NY, NY 10021
212-288-9638
<https://www.mapcds.org/>

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DOH link:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page>

National Association of School Psychologists – Talking to Children About Covid-19 (Coroanvirus):

A Parent Resource

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

New York Times – How To Talk to Kids About Coronavirus

<https://parenting.nytimes.com/childrens-health/coronavirus-kids-talk>

Child Mind Institute – Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>