

March 10, 2020

Dear Trinity Christian School Families,

One of our highest priorities at Trinity Christian School is the health and safety of our students and school community. The leadership of Trinity is closely monitoring the local and national health authorities and is following recommendations related to novel coronavirus (COVID-19) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Allegheny County Health Department, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and other governmental agencies. We ask the entire Trinity Christian School community to keep this evolving situation in prayer and specifically remember our international students whose families are in China.

With multiple presumptive cases of COVID-19 in eastern Pennsylvania, we are actively planning and preparing for the possibility of the virus appearing in our region. We are in the process of formulating contingency plans should the virus appear in our community or should local authorities, including school districts, issue certain recommendations or mandates for schools. We are presently considering distance-learning options in the case that the school would need to be closed for an extended period of time.

As noted earlier, Trinity hosts several international students. AHLI has been in communication with our students and host families. As the Spring Break approaches, our international students have been restricted from international travel while on break. AHLI is considering summer options for students who may need to stay in the states.

If you or your child develop flu-like symptoms, please stay home and call your health care professional immediately to provide them with your symptoms and travel history. Trinity Christian School's illness policy requires that students and TCS employees should not come to school if they have a fever. Your child must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before he or she may return to school. **If you or a family member are diagnosed with COVID-19, contact the school office immediately.**

We request that, if your family plans to travel either domestically and internationally over Spring Break, you closely monitor the latest travel advisories and realize that Trinity must follow government mandates. The Pennsylvania Department of Health has provided the following information for K-12 schools:

If a student, teacher, or faculty member have returned from Iran or China:

- 1. The health department will be alerted by CDC and will contact the individual(s).**
- 2. Stay home and self-isolate yourself for 14 days after travel.**

If a student, teacher, or faculty member have returned from Italy or South Korea:

- 1. They need to call 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) to let the health department know about their travel.**
- 2. Stay home and self-isolate yourself for 14 days after travel.**

Any travelers returning from Iran, China, Italy and South Korea should self-monitor for symptoms like fever, cough, or trouble breathing. If you become sick, call 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) and the doctor's office or emergency room before visiting.

We are in communication with our cleaning services company and want to assure you that high frequency contact surfaces are being wiped with commercial grade Lysol. Throughout the school day, our maintenance staff is disinfecting high-contact surfaces such as handrails, light switches, doorknobs, water fountains, and bathroom facilities.

The best methods to reduce the risk of getting this or any viral respiratory infection include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces
- Stay at home away from others if you are sick
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands
- If your child exhibits respiratory or flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, keep them home from school and contact your healthcare provider.

Numerous online resources provide current information regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Here are a few links to these resources:

- [CDC: Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- [Allegheny County Health Department: 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [CDC: COVID-19 Information for Travelers](#)
- [U.S. State Department: Current Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

It is likely that both our state and national situation will evolve further in the weeks ahead. We will update you by email as our plan evolves. We are developing a link on the TCS website that will provide updates along with COVID-19 online resources. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our desire is to encourage vigilance, best practices, and care for those who are sick. I encourage all of us to pray for our leaders at the national, state, and local levels to make wise decisions that will prevent the spread of this disease. There are countless stories of people responding in fear. Pray that the Christian community would respond with gentleness and kindness. Finally, pray for protection and peace for those who are at risk if they contract the disease. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Kennedy Henriquez
Head of School