

# THE PARK SCHOOL *of* BALTIMORE

## Park School COVID-19 Response — BRAIN sPARK

Good afternoon.

I write to you today as you registered to attend BRAIN sPARK here at Park School on Sunday, March 8.

Yesterday, I shared with current Park families that we are aware that a member of our school community had exhibited symptoms that may have suggested exposure to COVID-19. Out of an abundance of caution, we shut down normal school operations and our students began spring break early.

This community member was in attendance at BRAIN sPARK on Sunday evening, and I understand you may have concerns that you were in close proximity with the individual. **I have spoken directly with the person's physician — a highly regarded doctor affiliated with Johns Hopkins — and I can share his clinical judgment that this individual is low-risk for COVID-19.**

*I am happy to tell you, too, that our community member is feeling much better today.*

Please understand that we cannot respond to requests to provide more information about the identity of the individual in question. I appreciate that these inquiries may come from a place of concern, trying to assess how likely close contact with our community member may have been. I want to emphasize that we are respecting the individual's important right to privacy *and* we are being mindful that we should not provide any information that could be potentially misleading. Given our setting, there is simply no way to speak with any real degree of certainty that individuals would or would not have been in close proximity, or would or would not encounter transmission of a virus from a surface.

As you may know, the COVID-19 testing landscape is evolving. Just over the last two days the protocols for testing for COVID-19 have changed — now shifting the responsibility from the Baltimore County Health Department to the discretion of individual practitioners and the Maryland State Department of Health. In light of the new protocols, newly increased test availability, and the

news, yesterday, of growing concern of community spread of the virus in the state, the Park community member's physician is able to move forward with a COVID-19 test today. He has also ordered testing for strep and the flu.

Please note that securing results for the COVID-19 test could take several days under current circumstances. And, ultimately, sharing any diagnosis is at the discretion of the patient. We will pass on relevant information that is helpful to our community.

**Regardless of our knowledge that this is a low-risk case, and without the final outcome of any testing, I want to bring to your attention yesterday's news that there is now a case of community transmission in Maryland. In light of this news, I strongly encourage all community members to practice social distancing and, to the greatest extent possible, to limit interaction with those in high risk groups.**

I'm grateful to the entire Park community for the thoughtful support and sensitivity as we face this unprecedented situation.

I will be back in touch with any more pertinent news for our community.

Sincerely,

Dan Paradis  
Head of School

Please send questions or concerns to [covidresponseteam@parkschool.net](mailto:covidresponseteam@parkschool.net). Our response team checks this account regularly.