

THE PARK SCHOOL *of* BALTIMORE

Park School's COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Response

Dear Families,

This is the next in what will be a series of regular communications from me regarding Park School's response to the spread of COVID-19.

We continue to monitor the latest developments regarding the coronavirus. Here at school, we have implemented a number of steps dedicated to keeping our school community healthy, limiting the potential transmission of COVID-19 and other viruses, and educating our student body with the best, age-appropriate information available. These steps include:

- *Increased frequency of and scope of disinfecting surfaces (tabletops, door handles, light switches, etc.)*
- *Increased availability of hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes*
- *Community discussions (in assembly, House, advisory, or homeroom) regarding best practices for limiting transmission of viruses*
- *Modeling behaviors and modifying programs (minimizing person-to-person contact)*
- *Increasing availability of common resources (limiting the need to share, etc.)*
- *Reinforcing best hygiene practices (hand washing, etc.)*

Importantly, we are also heeding the recommendation of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and government officials for schools to be prepared for the possibility of this virus becoming more widespread. The principals, faculty, and administrators are meeting regularly — both in-person and online — to consider the full range of implications of COVID-19 directly affecting members of the Park community.

There is currently no expectation that we will close school, but should it be required by local, state, or federal authorities, we will implement our plans to continue engaging our students in intentional, thoughtful ways. Our primary goals would be to move forward with meaningful learning and to maintain the important social and emotional connections that we all share as a community of learners.

We are planning for the possibility that we will implement Online Distance Learning (ODL). Parents, please think about what your family's needs are in order to incorporate an online component that may include real-time video or voice interaction with teachers and classmates, as well as working offline. Should we need to move forward with ODL sometime in the future, you will hear more from me and our principals, detailing the resources needed, expectations, and methodology. I am grateful to our faculty who are building upon their already remarkable skill set to be ready to pivot should there be a need to implement remote learning.

We are looking ahead, also, to spring break. For any families who may be traveling over the coming weeks, we expect parents and students to take appropriate precautions as recommended by [the CDC](#) and [the State Department](#) in order to keep both yourselves and the Park community safe. Please consult the aforementioned websites regularly — prior to, and during, your travels.

Lastly, I will reiterate the importance of adopting the following practices that prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.*
- *Stay home when you are sick.*
- *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*
- *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.*

Take some time to continue to reinforce these simple messages at home, and please know how much we appreciate your partnership as we work together to keep your children healthy and thriving.

Sincerely,

Dan Paradis
Head of School