



University Liggett School

Dear University Liggett School Families:

Like schools across the United States and the world, we are actively monitoring the global outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, commonly known as “novel coronavirus,” and making plans and preparations for various scenarios if the virus were to become present in our region or our school community.

Please know that our primary sources of guidance and information as it relates to our monitoring, preparation, and decision-making are the [Centers for Disease Control](#), [the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), and the [Wayne County Department of Health](#). Additionally, we are in communication with the Michigan Department of Education and local, regional and national networks of schools.

According to the CDC, the current risk of viral contraction in our state and in our community is very low. No confirmed COVID-19 cases have been identified in Michigan. Additionally, an increasing body of data about the virus suggests that most individuals who contract the virus will experience mild or moderate symptoms and recover fully. Most at risk of serious complications are the elderly and those with compromised immune functions.

The most effective protective action we can take now is to recommit to basic hygiene practices that are effective at preventing most communicable diseases:

- Regular washing of hands with soap and warm water (20 seconds or more)
- Use of an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, if soap and water are unavailable.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Covering of the mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Staying home from school with symptoms including but not limited to: fever, productive cough, vomiting or diarrhea. Please keep your child home until their symptoms subside and they are able to tolerate a full day of school activities
- For students who stay home from school, communicating candidly with the Director of Medical Services, [Rachel Onderbeke](#), about symptoms
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of classroom and school spaces, especially tables, door knobs, etc.

Please know that we will reinforce these messages with students and families in the weeks ahead. We will work with our facilities team to ensure daily sanitization and will be placing additional hand sanitizer stations in our building.

We have received several questions about how this situation impacts our immediate school plans. Please see below for several important updates.

Sophomore Washington, D.C. Trip (March 9-13)

Given current CDC travel guidelines, sophomores will travel as planned next week for their annual trip to Washington, D.C. Sophomore parents are reminded of the information session tomorrow, Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. here at school.

US Immersion Week (March 9-13)

The Upper School Immersion week will continue as planned as students take weeklong classes in a single topic both here on campus and around the greater Detroit region.

Spring Break Travel (March 14-29)

We are encouraging all faculty, staff, students, and families to carefully examine all Spring Break travel plans in accordance with dynamic and developing guidelines from Federal authorities. All ULS international students have made plans to stay in the United States during the spring break.

Currently, the CDC and Department of State have issued their highest respective travel warnings for Italy, Iran, South Korea, and Mainland China. All non-essential travel to these countries is discouraged and re-entry to the United States may be limited (both by Federal authorities and by cancellation of normal air routes) or precluded. Lower level advisories have been issued for Japan and Hong Kong.

We encourage all families who plan international travel during the break to closely monitor Federal travel advisories and understand that a dynamic and changing situation may impact reentry to the United States from abroad. If you would like to discuss your travel plans and any educational contingencies for a precluded return, or quarantine upon return, please contact the appropriate division head.

Summer History of Math Trip (June 12-22)

The school is in contact with the third party travel company, which is planning the summer trip to Greece, to evaluate how the virus might impact those plans. Trip participants should stay tuned for further communication.

School Closure Contingency Plans

Our priority and plan is to remain open and normally operating for the remainder of the school year.

However, we must acknowledge and prepare for a scenario, albeit unlikely, in which widespread community transmission in our region mandates the closure of schools by Federal or state authorities.

Our technology and academic leaders are considering platforms and practices by which school might continue to be conducted virtually. While we know that this format would be imperfect and may not be practical for every grade level, especially given our dynamic and hands-on

approach to learning, digital media represent one pathway to continue teaching and learning to the best of our ability. These discussions and considerations are ongoing.

We will continue to update you as the evolving situation warrants. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your division head, Director of Medical Services Rachel Onderbeke, or me.

Sincerely,

Bart Bronk
Head of School

March 6, 2020