

**Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

Hello Parents:

Yesterday, February 25th, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) gave a press conference updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and what steps should be taken moving forward. We wanted to share with you that we are aware of the danger the coronavirus poses to our school and community and have begun planning accordingly.

As the CDC emphasized, there is ***not currently a coronavirus pandemic in the United States***. A pandemic occurs when a disease is spreading from a variety of sources across a large region, and the number of cases across the US is still small. However, given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we are monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions daily.

The most effective way to stay healthy and minimize the spread of ANY infectious disease is to follow basic health best practices like:

- Continuing to use basic hygiene principles, like washing hands thoroughly and covering up coughs/sneezes; and,
- Asking all students, staff and faculty who are feeling ill to stay home until they fully recover.

Our school is prepared to alter our procedures and planning should the situation change, and upon direction from our local government agencies. We are also thinking ahead regarding the impact of coronavirus on upcoming field trips and school activities with large gatherings. We will communicate any changes to school procedures and/or events when the time is appropriate.

It is important to remember that handling the spread of a serious contagion like the coronavirus, is primarily a task for public health agencies. Any directives from the World Health Organization, CDC, or local governmental organizations will be followed.

In times like this, we are particularly grateful for the strength and togetherness of our community of faith. We pray for God's protection over us and healing for those already affected by the coronavirus.

Please continue to look for further communications from us on this matter.

**Date: Monday, March 2, 2020**

We hope you all had a restful weekend!

As we continue to monitor the spread of the coronavirus, we wanted to let you know a few of the ways we are preparing for its potential arrival and also ways you can help.

- Beginning today, all classes will begin a more frequent hand washing schedule including before and after recess times and before and after lunch.
- Each class will have a supply of hand sanitizer for students as well as sanitizing wipes so that desks can be wiped down at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Our janitorial staff will be deep cleaning classrooms every evening using disinfectant.
- We are also making plans for digital learning in the event that the school or individual classrooms have to be shut down.
- Finally, students in grades 3-8 will be watching and discussing this Brainpop video on coronavirus: <https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/>

We will continue to provide these informational emails as frequently as needed. In the meantime, while we are currently well supplied, you can help us by donating bottles of hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes for future use. You can drop these donations off in the school office.

Thank you for partnering with us to make Grace a safe place!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

**Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020**

Greetings Parents:

In our continuing efforts to keep you updated about our response to the coronavirus, we wanted to make sure you were aware that local health officials have updated their recommendations for when a sick student or staff member should remain home.

Health officials advise that all children and staff members with respiratory symptoms and fever greater than 100 F / 37.8 C (lowered from 100.4 F) should remain home from school and other activities until they have no fever for 24 hours, without fever medication. They also added that students and staff who have severe productive coughs (i.e., spewing respiratory droplets) that are not typical for them should stay home.

Beginning today we will be following these recommendations with sick students or staff members.

Please let us know if you have any questions!

**Date: Friday, March 13, 2020**

*Dear Grace Christian Parents:*

*As you read in our earlier email, out of an abundance of caution, and in consultation with local public health, Grace Christian will be closed beginning March 16th in order to curb the potential transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Schools will be closed through April 13th and children should stay home. We understand this action may pose added hardship for some of our families, but the health and safety of your children is our highest priority.*

**Grace has already created Google classrooms for all grade levels, and administration and faculty will be meeting Monday to determine the best way to get information to students. By creating a remote learning platform for the next few weeks we will not have to extend the school year. Our teachers are committed to engaging with all their students during this time. Students will be bringing home their textbooks today in preparation for remote learning at home. Please look for an email from us by Tuesday morning with further information.**

**The school office will be open Monday from 7:00am to 5:00pm. If your student has any medication kept at school you may pick it up during these hours. Also, if your student was absent today, you may pick up their textbooks in the office anytime after 1:00pm. If these times do not work for you, please let Deborah Jackson know at [djackson@gracelcms.net](mailto:djackson@gracelcms.net).**

While your student(s) remain home, we encourage you to continue practicing good hygiene, which includes:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Get vaccinated for the flu if you have not already.

If you feel for any reason your child may have or has been exposed to the novel coronavirus, please contact your doctor immediately. Virus symptoms can range from mild to severe and could include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

We will remain in close contact with the San Diego County Office of Education and local public health officials throughout the duration of this closure and will provide updates to

families as appropriate.

We encourage you to stay informed of the situation by regularly checking updates from San Diego County Public Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We understand this is a time of uncertainty and concern, but also advise that you limit your child's exposure to the news media to prevent any undue stress.

We will work through this together to keep our students, families, and staff safe and as Christians, we continue to put our faith in an all powerful God who holds us lovingly in His hands.

If you have questions about our school closure at this time please contact:

Ben Elliott, Superintendent at [belliott@gracelcms.net](mailto:belliott@gracelcms.net)

Kara Warner, Assoc. Principal at [kwarnar@gracelcms.net](mailto:kwarnar@gracelcms.net)