



ROOTS OF THE COMMUNITY: Important News



Dear Families,

As you have undoubtedly seen, there are now two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Colorado and sure to be more as more testing happens. I want to provide additional information on MSD's efforts to limit the exposure to and spread of illness in our community. Area schools are taking action as they identify affected community members. We continue to make plans internally in the event that the COVID-19 outbreak impacts our school operations and we are monitoring developments so that we can make well-informed decisions based on solid information. Student safety remains our number one priority.

Per our risk management plan, now that the virus is in Colorado, MSD will be instituting the following practices to keep our community as healthy as possible:

- We have put a hold on Admission tours and other outside visitors. If your student gets tutoring during the school day, you will need to make off-campus arrangements directly with the tutor, outside of the school day.
- Our School Nurse has advised us that students who have shortness of breath, a fever over 100 degrees, or a cough must stay at home and get guidance and as well as clearance from their doctor before returning to school. Use of good sense is important for us all to exercise when it comes to exposure to ill siblings or family members.
- Immediate parental pick-up is required for students who fall ill while on campus. Students will be quarantined in the Welcome Center to prevent exposure to additional people.
- Families who have traveled to countries with known COVID-19 in the past 14 days must stay at home until clear (14 days).
- Elementary trips to SpringBrooke have been put on hold. We will notify you of cancellations of other field trips and community events and are monitoring the 8th grade trip to Boston that is scheduled for next month.

School will carry on as normal as possible in the classrooms. We are installing more hand sanitizers in communal areas including the library atrium and Arts and Athletics commons, as well as in classrooms and bathrooms. Our school nurse

consultant will be coming in to give handwashing lessons and all students will wash hands as soon as they come into the classroom as well as throughout the day in accordance with good hygiene. Teachers will stop handshaking as a morning greeting and also put away any food preparation works in the classroom. We are purchasing additional thermometers so that we may check student and staff temperatures regularly.

Spring Break Travel

As of right now, we are asking if you or anyone in your family is traveling over the next several weeks to countries or states that have been assigned a 2, 3, or 4 travel alert by the CDC or Department of State to please notify the school. We ask this to help the school plan for community transmission. If you or members of your family are considering outbound international travel, please be aware that your travel may be disrupted, or quarantine imposed. We strongly advise against travel to any location with a level 3 or higher.

If you think you have been exposed or have developed a respiratory illness, please self-isolate until you have been in touch with your doctor, received medical treatment or testing, or have been in touch with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Call CO-HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911.

We continue to disinfect classrooms and bathrooms throughout the school day and are encouraging lots of handwashing with students and staff. We appreciate your help in following these guidelines. NPR shared a [comic](#) for children to help them understand the virus. It is a good resource to share to help children not to feel anxious.

I will stay in touch as the situation warrants and as we get closer to Spring Break travel. Please be in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,

Julie

Julie Bragdon M.Ed

Head of School, Montessori School of Denver

1460 South Holly Street, Denver, CO 80222

303-756-9441 ext 111

www.montessoridenver.org