



NOURISHING THE ROOTS, TENDING THE GARDEN.

A note from Julie Bragdon, Head of School



Dear MSD Community,

As you are likely aware, on Tuesday, February 25, 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. As the CDC emphasized, the number of cases in the US is very small, but the global situation is evolving, so MSD is currently reviewing existing protocols and preparing for a range of possible contingencies. Specific response plans will be shared when or if they are necessary, as determined by guidance from the CDC and Colorado Department of Public Health.

As a reminder, at school, we follow CDC guidelines for standard communicable-disease prevention such as:

- Reminding all students to wash their hands regularly throughout the day and cough and sneeze correctly into their elbows;
- Providing disinfecting wipes in every classroom and hand sanitizers on every floor;
- Cleaning in the evening which includes disinfecting all surfaces thoroughly, and wiping down door handles, railings, and all bathroom hardware with an antibacterial cleanser; and
- Performing extra cleaning throughout the day as necessary.

We encourage you to consider using similar practices of regular surface cleaning and handwashing in your home if you do not already. In addition, we ask everyone in the community to take normal illness prevention precautions to help keep us all healthy. When faculty and staff feel ill, we ask them to stay home until they recover. Similarly, we ask for your continued adherence to our policies regarding children who are ill. Please do not send your children to school if they are experiencing any major symptoms of illness such as a severe cough, cold, excessively runny or stuffy nose, major aches, vomiting, diarrhea, or fever. As a reminder, our policy dictates that students be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school. We also ask that you report any illnesses to your teachers or program head for our record-keeping.

The health and safety of our families, faculty, and staff is our top priority at MSD. We will continue to stay in close contact with the CDC, CO State Department of Health (CDPHE) and monitor the situation daily with updates from experts in the field and through consulting with peer schools and professional networks and organizations. CDPHE shares that there are currently no cases in Colorado and that they are still in the pre-pandemic planning phases.

Here are resources you may wish to review:

- [Colorado Department of Public Health Information on Coronavirus](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus and Children](#)
- [2019 Coronavirus Fact Sheet CDPHE](#)

As always, we will continue to communicate with you if we have further news to share. Thank you for partnering with us on this important issue.

Best,
Julie

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