

Dear Shalom School Parents,

As you no doubt know, information about the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) in China and its spread to other areas of the world, including the U.S., is evolving rapidly. You may also be aware of a case identified at U.C. Davis Medical Center, and we are gathering information as it becomes available in order to monitor the situation, plan as proactively as possible, and do everything we can to keep our community safe and healthy.

We will be working closely with medical and public health professionals in the coming days to continue to evaluate the situation; we will also continue to consult public health sources, including the CDC and our local Department of Health Services for information and recommendations. Additionally, we receive valuable updates from our educational partners at the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools.

At this point, the CDC and other experts are emphasizing that 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. They are, however, emphasizing the ongoing importance of prevention and good hygiene practices in minimizing the spread of infectious disease. We have been reminding our children of these practices and urge you both to observe them yourselves and to reinforce them with your children.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve
- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home (or keep your child home) if you're feeling sick. Call your doctor and describe your symptoms and travel history.

Please remember that children who have been ill should not return to school until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication. This policy applies to everyone, every year, and is especially important as we work together as a community to keep all our students and staff healthy.

We will continue to keep you updated as we have any new information or with any plans to alter our procedures and planning should the situation change. I am grateful for the hard work of our teachers and staff and for the partnership of our families and look forward to sharing more information with you as it becomes available. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to be in touch should you have questions.

L'shalom,

Nancy

www.shalomschool.org



