

SUBJECT LINE: Important Message for Parents from CDH

Dear Parents,

As you know, Cretin-Derham Hall is in a distance learning model today because we received several reports of confirmed COVID cases over the weekend, with more people awaiting test results. We moved into a distance model today because we are committed to thorough and proper contact tracing. As reports of cases within our community increase, the process for thorough contract tracing may necessitate other short-term distance learning announcements to maintain safety on campus. We will update you with tomorrow's plan as soon as we are able.

CDH is committed to doing everything we can to minimize the risk of spread at school. Obviously, there are cases within our students and faculty/staff. Our contact tracing, conducted under the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health, indicates that most of the positive case spread is likely from activities outside of the school day, ie: social gatherings and/or family members at home and athletic teams.

Today, we are reaching out to all parents/guardians with a very important message.

We are all experiencing COVID fatigue, but it's time that we return to our vigilance in observing mitigation strategies. In order for CDH to remain in a hybrid environment with in-person instruction between students and teachers, our entire community must manage their risk factors and behavior. The risk this pandemic presents to our school operation and our community's health is unprecedented and we need each family to restrict large and small social gatherings among your children and their friends.

If we cannot prevent the spread, we will need to transition to full-time distance learning. With the alarming number of cases in Minnesota and the pace of the spread of COVID-19, it is time to call on our strongest defenses, which includes limiting social gatherings and compliance with social distancing, mask wearing and hygiene guidelines.

Please know, we are well aware of the social needs of teenagers and the challenges presented by the pandemic. None of this is easy and we must balance many things as we navigate these unsettling times with our high school aged children.

This will have a positive impact. The fact is, the virus spreads up to two days before any symptoms show, so no one really knows if they are contagious, even within your 'bubble.' That is why masks and social distancing have proven to be effective in a controlled environment, such as school where we are in compliance with such measures. The challenge comes when each of us leaves this controlled environment and/or fails to comply with social distancing, mask wearing, and hygiene guidelines.

We recognize that this is a serious request, but we do so out of a sincere desire to continue to provide the best learning structure we possibly can for your child. There are many things we cannot control during a pandemic. Despite the challenges, Cretin-Derham Hall remains

committed to your family and our community's health and well-being, and we are working diligently to keep in-person learning in place. Thank you for your support.

Frank Miley
President

Mona Passman
Principal