



Cretin-Derham Hall

Co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Brothers of the Christian Schools

February 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Due to the serious coronavirus outbreak internationally, we want to update you on how this might affect Cretin-Derham Hall. As you can imagine, it is hard to define the potential impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on our country, our state or our local community.

At this point, there are no immediate concerns that coronavirus has or will impact CDH. According to the coronavirus update from the [Minnesota Department of Health](#), the risk for Minnesotans who are unlikely to be exposed to the virus is considered low. However, we are monitoring the situation very closely and are developing a plan to respond in case the situation changes. We continue to evaluate the situation daily.

Our primary goal is to protect and maintain student, staff and family health. Rest assured, we are prepared to make safety and wellness decisions that are in the best interest of our entire community. To best manage any infectious disease outbreak, we will follow governmental guidelines, particularly those defined by the Minnesota Department of Health.

We encourage all families to stay informed and follow all precautions for prevention of illness from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) regarding coronavirus (COVID-19). As always, we recommend people stay home when sick, cover their cough, and practice good hand hygiene. These practices are especially important during cold and flu season.

We are also working with our faculty to explore options for online learning in the rare event our campus needs to be closed for any amount of time to prevent the spread of the virus.

We are blessed to have international students on campus and are aware that the coronavirus presents its own challenges for them and their families. Please note that Amerigo, our international education partner, has been in close contact with us about all possible scenarios.

- None of our international students have been in areas of risk/exposure since the outbreak was first reported in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.
- We are aware of the psychological toll this can take on a student who has family in an area of risk and we are working with the Amerigo staff to support the students as needed. With heightened awareness around the coronavirus, we must work together to avoid acting with discrimination or suspicion due to race or ethnicity.
- CDH welcomed four new international students this week. One student is from Vietnam where there are fewer cases of the virus than in America, but was isolated for two weeks prior to starting at CDH in order to eliminate any risk. Another student is from Seoul, South Korea which only has one contained case. The third student is from Taiwan and has been here for over two weeks. The final student is a transfer from another high school in the United States and thus poses no greater health risks than another transfer student because he was here in the US for the past year.
- To minimize exposure, Amerigo is also keeping international students here in the US over spring break and likely, summer break. If a student and his/her family wants them to return home, they will likely not be allowed back into the program in the immediate future.

The coronavirus outbreak is an evolving situation and we will keep you informed if the situation changes at our local level. If you have immediate questions or concerns, please contact either one of us. In addition, our school nurse, [Tara Kaup](#) is a good resource.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. We need to take care of ourselves and each other during this time of heightened concern. Please keep all those affected by the virus, as well as the health care workers that serve our communities, in your prayers.

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