

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Cretin-Derham Hall's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparation and Response Plan

(March 12, 2020 – 11:30 a.m.) Cretin-Derham Hall is closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in our region. As part of our preparations, school leadership is drawing on the expertise and recommendations of medical and public health experts, locally, nationally, and internationally. We are also in consultation with colleague schools and our Board of Directors.

Our **Preparation and Response Plan** is ever-evolving based on the situation and information at hand, but we want to share some important elements of the plan today because we believe that we must work together to minimize the risk to our school community.

Proactive Measures Currently Underway

1. *Monitoring Reliable Sources of Information.* School leadership meets regularly to review information and updates in order to make decisions in a timely manner.
2. *Working to Stop the Spread of Germs.* We share daily verbal health and wellness guidelines including: hand hygiene, staying home when feeling ill, appropriately covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding touching the face. Posters with similar messages are also visible around campus.
3. *Daily Cleaning of Campus.* In addition to normal cleaning routines, the maintenance staff and night cleaning crew are implementing enhanced cleaning procedures per CDC recommendations. In addition, classrooms and other areas of the building have access to disinfectant for use by faculty and students.
4. *Monitoring Health Conditions of Students and Employees.* CDH tracks any indication of a potential presence of an infectious illness, including the coronavirus. More information about the COVID-19 symptoms is available at Minnesota Department of Health. We encourage you to contact your doctor if you have questions about symptoms.
5. *Student Support.* Faculty and staff are mindful that some students may experience anxiety in relation to the COVID-19 risk and resulting news stories. Guidance counselors are available. If you have questions or concerns about your student, [click here to contact a counselor](#).
6. *Culture of Respect.* With heightened awareness around COVID-19, we must work together to avoid acting with discrimination or suspicion due to race or ethnicity. The risk of this virus knows no borders.

On-going Assessment of CDH Service Sites, Events, Gatherings, Activities, School-Sponsored Travel and Field Trips

Grade 12 Service. With service embedded into our curricular programs for many of our seniors, CDH is in contact with those sites to assess best options to minimize risk for both CDH and the service site, including the possibility of temporarily suspending visits.

Athletics/Co-curriculars. All other athletic or activities events and gatherings will also be monitored and adjusted as needed to minimize risk. In addition to assessing the needs of our community, we are also working closely with the [Minnesota State High School League](#) and our colleague schools to assess options, including the possibility to temporarily suspend activities if warranted.

Field Trips/School Trips. We are monitoring any off-campus opportunities on a case-by-case basis and will cancel if necessary. We are in communication with organizers.

Response Plan: Increased Risk of COVID-19 in our Community

CDH will communicate any changes related to COVID-19 with families and students via normal communications channels.

1. CDH will follow the recommendation and direction of the [CDC \(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\)](#) and [Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\)](#) regarding any changes to how we deliver instruction or participate in athletics or other co-curricular activities. **At this time, MDH has not made a recommendation to close campuses or discontinue any activities.**
2. In the absence of a more specific industry-wide directive from the CDC or the MDH, Cretin-Derham Hall is also prepared to adjust our operations if we have a localized situation such as a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 in one of our students, employees, households of students or employees, or visitors. In that case, CDH will assess risk with our local public health experts and be prepared to implement possible responses, such as:
 - a. Close campus for one or two days in order to specially clean and disinfect the campus -or -
 - b. Move to Online School. CDH is prepared to provide Online School for two weeks or more. Faculty and staff are preparing for this situation and much more information will be shared if that decision is warranted.
 - Educational experiences will continue. Students will have expectations for engaging in online school and completing online school requirements, guided and supported by their teachers.
 - Athletics and co-curricular activities would be cancelled during that same time period.
 - The school building will be closed.
 - Main phone lines will be answered during normal hours.

- Email communication will be used as normal.

Of special note: public health experts caution that campus closings are not effective in reducing the spread of the virus unless accompanied by social distancing strategies such as limiting group gatherings, so if Online School is implemented, we ask that students plan to find healthy ways to socialize and get exercise without gathering in groups.

How Members of Our Community Can Help

1. *Help Stop the Spread of Germs.* As with any infectious illness, please try to avoid close contact with people who are sick, and follow [all precautions](#): washing hands thoroughly with soap and water, stay home if sick, cover cough and sneezes etc.
2. *Keep your student at home if he/she is not feeling well.* We recognized that students may not want to stay home and miss school or activities, but this is especially important to minimize the spread of any illness, even before receiving a medical diagnosis.
3. *Consider Limiting Travel.* We recognize families will engage with many people when traveling for either work or pleasure. With CDH's Easter Break coming up, April 6-13, family travel could increase exponentially. It is important to recognize that travel during this outbreak could add risk for CDH students, families, and employees.
4. *Travel Guidelines.* If you do travel, please review [travel guidelines published by the CDC](#). Please pay special attention to CDC protocols for visiting countries in High Risk areas (this list is subject to change, so please check before and after your travel). If a student or anyone in the student's household has traveled to a high-risk country in the past 14 days, please notify our school immediately. It will be presumed that the student cannot return to campus until further direction, even in the absence of symptoms.

Ongoing Communication

CDH puts the health and wellness of our community first. We will continue to update our families, students, and faculty/staff via normal communications channels in the coming days, weeks and months as the situation evolves.

In addition, we have developed a webpage for [Cretin-Derham Hall's Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates](#). This page, accessible on our homepage, will also provide links to important resources.

Please know that COVID-19 is a constantly changing public health challenge and we are doing our very best to act in the best interest of our CDH community while maintaining a vibrant learning environment.

Join us in prayer for the health of our families, and those families around the world who are affected by COVID-19.