March 11, 2020

Dear Codman Academy Families,

As promised here’s an update on our continuing efforts to prepare for and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community. At a high level, we’re aimed at keeping as many school routines in place as possible.

As of March 11, there are no positive cases of COVID-19 among our students and staff. We will notify the community if this changes.

With that said, it’s likely that there’s some exposure in our larger community, be it first, second, third hand or greater. Please remember that your doctor is the best person to speak with if you believe you may have been exposed to, or may be sick from this virus. There is an extensive reporting network in place, and your doctor is an important part of it.

Latest News & Actions

1. Massachusetts State of Emergency: Yesterday Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency, which is a governmental action that allows him to access resources that are only available during emergencies. While this indicates the seriousness of the situation, it is good news and not reason for panic. Please know that a lot of people are working hard to keep everyone as safe and informed as possible, and remember to take care of yourselves during this uncertain time.

2. Updated Guidance on Events & Activities: Based on yesterday’s updated guidance from the Governor and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, we are issuing the following guidance which will be in effect now until the start of school vacation (April 18). We will continue to update our procedures as new guidance and information emerges.

   • School events for students and staff will continue: At this time, we will continue to hold in-school events for students and staff. This includes Community Circle, Student Led Conferences, professional development, same-day fieldwork (on a case-by-case basis), and regularly scheduled Enrichment programs.
   • Cancelling out-of-state travel: All out-of-state fieldwork and professional development experiences are cancelled through the beginning of April Recess.
• **Fieldwork:** We are aware of the concerns around both crowded public spaces and travel to and from fieldwork experiences. We will continue to hold fieldwork and work with our partnering organizations to ensure all necessary precautions are taken. If you have student specific concerns, please reach out.

3. **School Nurse:** We want to ensure access to care for all students in need and are working through our contingency plans. We have active support from both our school nursing team and the Codman Square Health Center to ensure our students are healthy and we are able to quickly respond to any needs.

4. **Partner programs have cancelled experiences:** MIT’s SEED Academy, the Next Generation Leaders program, and many other important programs for our students have been cancelled. If you’re not sure whether an experience is still on, please get in touch with contact folks before moving forward.

5. **School Closure:** We are open now and for the foreseeable future, but will be responding to changes on the ground. Please note, due to our reliance on BPS transportation, if BPS closes we’ll also be closed. We are working on contingency plans for academics, for food, and for additional services. We will provide more information as we have it and appreciate your support in checking phone and email messages as we communicate.

6. **Interaction Changes:** In order to be responsive to medical recommendations, we have updated our policies around physical interactions. We will no longer offer handshakes or high-fives at the entrance to school or classroom doors. Instead, encourage your student to use a verbal greeting or elbow bump in order to reduce the spread of germs.

We will continue to keep open lines of communication. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.