



International School of Kenya

Empowering students to create solutions for tomorrow's challenges

February 27, 2020

Dear Parents,

I wanted to share updated information about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and the various preparations ISK has been making. This note also includes information related to ISK's Virtual School Environment and a planned Parent Town Hall discussion set for Saturday, March 7, at 9:30 a.m. in the Library (during our Farmer's Market).

Briefly, virus infection rate statistics continue to vary from day-to-day, and multiple news agencies are reporting a slowing of new cases out of China with increased concern in Japan and South Korea. In the past few days, the World Health Organization (WHO) has provided preliminary information about virus behavior where the median incubation period is thought to be 5-6 days. The fatality ratio is said to be 2.3%, again preliminary reporting. At the same time, the virus outbreak is not classified as a pandemic.

Conversations with Your Child

The coronavirus has been declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO), and uncertainty around this can bring about fear and worry with our students. It is important to remember our children are looking towards us for reassurance and cues on how to react and respond. Please click on this [LINK](#) for some suggestions for ways to have conversations with your children about COVID-19.

ISK On Campus Planning Update

ISK - via the ISK Health Clinic - continues to review and apply best practices related to hygiene, including expanding access and refilling all hand sanitizer points within the campus, posting information about COVID-19 and handwashing practice in key locations, and ensuring disinfectants needed for surface cleaning are well stocked and available. Faculty and staff are also regularly updated to reinforce best practices. Our counselors are spearheading ways to support teachers and students in how they can communicate about the virus and where they might find reliable information. This includes making sure that certain groups are not stigmatized.

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Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Update

ISK has a Virtual Learning Plan in place to guide all teachers in maintaining a learning environment for those students who may be required to continue their learning from outside of the physical ISK boundary. This plan outlines several scenarios and provides guidance and resources for each age group at ISK. For now, as parents, please ensure:

- HS/MS Parents - you are receiving the weekly updates from Google Classroom, and your children are bringing home their computer or iPad every day
- ES Parents - you are receiving the regular communication sent by the homeroom teacher of your children

Community Town Hall - Saturday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. in the Library

ISK, with the support of the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Embassy Medical Office, will hold a town hall meeting on Saturday, March 7, during the Farmer's Market in the Library. There will be an overview of the virus and the current status worldwide, along with information about school plans for virtual learning, etc. If you have a question that you would like to be addressed at the Town Hall, please respond to this email with the question in advance.

ISK March Break and Travel

With March Break (March 14-22) shortly upon us, many ISK families typically travel during this time. This brings up the question of when students and their families return back to Kenya and possible concerns related to unknown virus transmittal. Please be aware that we are not ruling out the possibility of a quarantine going into effect for some students/families/staff depending on CDC/WHO advice and on where one might have traveled/how the virus has spread. Our VLE would be implemented if there were such an extreme situation.

ISK is here to support our community as we strive for an engaging learning environment.

Warm Regards,
David G. Henry
Director

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