

GARRISON FOREST SCHOOL

300 GARRISON FOREST ROAD • OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117

Dear GFS Parents and Families,

Many of you are likely seeing news reports about the coronavirus outbreak first identified in Wuhan, China. Please be assured that we are following the situation closely and keeping in close contact with peer institutions, as well as local and national public health agencies. As the situation is rapidly evolving, we will do our best to send timely updates to the community.

There are no cases or specific exposure risks for GFS students, faculty or staff; however, we do want to keep you informed about the steps we're taking to ensure our community remains healthy:

- Until more information is available or the virus is contained, we will not be accepting prospective students or visitors from affected areas. Our Admission team is working with these families to offer alternative ways to explore the school virtually.
- Staff has been briefed on signs and symptoms of the virus, and our Health Center staff will be meeting with students to discuss common sense measures for preventing this and other types of viruses. Please see the bottom of this email for resources.
- School administration will be gathering information and discussing any necessary precautionary changes to programs or activities, and we will notify you as soon as possible if any adjustments are deemed appropriate.
- Students, faculty or staff planning to travel to China or other affected areas for Spring Break or other upcoming dates should consider waiting to make their arrangements until more information is available. The CDC currently recommends avoiding all non-essential travel to China (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/china#travel-notices>), though that status could be updated as things develop.

The wellbeing of our entire school community, physical as well as emotional, is always at the forefront of everything we do. As a school with an international student population, we will also be ensuring that our students from China and other affected areas feel supported throughout a period that could be very concerning for them and their families. I encourage all of our community members to be mindful of this as well.

Resources

About the virus:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Tips for preventing illness:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.htm>

Please do not hesitate to contact me or your Division Head if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Chanda Frey Grimes, RN
Director of Health Center



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