

March 9, 2020

Dear YES Prep Families:

We want to reiterate that at YES Prep Public Schools, the health and safety of our students and staff are our top priority. Members of the YES Prep leadership team continue to closely monitor information daily concerning coronavirus (COVID-19) and follow the guidance and expertise of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), City of Houston Health Department, Harris County Public Health and Texas Department of State Health Services.

As concern over the COVID-19 coronavirus continues to make headlines, we want to inform you that district and campus administrators, certified medical assistants (CMAs), custodial and operations staff continue to take proactive measures for the well-being of our school community. Please read this email in its entirety and check our district's coronavirus [webpage](http://www.yesprep.org/covid19) (www.yesprep.org/covid19) for additional information about our approach, past communications, and helpful links.

We continue to report that we have zero cases of COVID-19 identified. We are taking this threat of illness very seriously and will continue to provide an environment conducive to learning.

At this point in time, we do not have plans to close schools. Any such decision will be made at the direction of public health officials and communicated to you immediately. For general preparedness purposes, we are investigating what alternatives we have for providing remote education in case we are required to close the school for an extended period of time.

In the event COVID-19 reaches our school communities, YES Prep and the Houston Health Department are prepared to protect our families through appropriate control measures. As an immediate action, we encourage everybody to continue following good hygiene, as you would to prevent any virus. This includes:

- Keeping your children home if they are ill
- Encouraging your children to cover their cough and wash their hands frequently
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces that are frequently touched

Sanitation Measures

We are working with our custodial staff to ensure they are following best practices for cleaning and disinfecting during this time.

Our Operations teams have also taken additional measures to keep our campus communities as safe as possible. This includes:

- Supplying additional hand sanitizer throughout each campus
- Continuing to wipe down all tables and high-contact surfaces with disinfectant wipes



YES Prep is grateful for our entire staff, who continue to work tirelessly year-round to ensure our facilities are safe for our students.

Attendance

In response to the current conditions, we are suspending any perfect attendance incentives or expectations at this time. We want to reduce the pressure of students coming to school when they are sick. We continue to stress the importance of keeping any students who are ill (showing symptoms of cold or flu) at home until they are without a fever for more than 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication. This applies to faculty and staff as well.

Athletics

All YES Prep-sponsored athletic activities will continue as scheduled. Any changes to the schedules will be communicated to impacted campuses.

Upcoming School Trips & Field Trips

All YES Prep-sponsored, as well as 3rd party-sponsored trips, with YES Prep students and staff are canceled and/or rescheduled to limit the potential of exposure to the virus. All local and international trips scheduled for after spring break will be re-evaluated upon our return from break.

Spring Break Travel

With Spring Break approaching next week (March 16-20), we know that members of our community may have plans to travel abroad. Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we ask that you avoid personal travel to [CDC Warning Level 3 areas](#) (currently China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea) and [Level 2 areas](#) (Japan). If you do intend to travel to these areas, we ask that you immediately notify the campus front office since travel to these areas triggers the CDC's 14-day self-quarantine period. We also ask that you self-isolate your child from their YES Prep campus for 14 days if your child has come into recent contact with anyone who has traveled to these countries. We trust our families to be honest regarding travel history to help prevent exposure to our community. Accommodations for make-up work and remote learning alternatives will be handled on a case-by-case basis during any necessary quarantine period.

While we hesitate to take a position on domestic family travel plans, it is with an abundance of caution that we discourage any travel to areas where community transmission has been confirmed or areas with any exposure to large crowds. We do not currently have plans to enforce a quarantine for domestic travel but keep in mind that this may change if guidance from the CDC changes over the next couple of weeks.

More Information

In situations like these, rumors may cause unnecessary reactions and panic. Therefore, we encourage you to get information only from credible sources. Here are links to information about COVID-19 from local, state, national and international health organizations:



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713.967.9000 · tel
713.589.2502 · fax

yesprep.org

- [Houston Health Department](#)
- [Harris County Public Health](#)
- [Texas Department of State Health Services](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)

YES Prep has also set up a [webpage](http://www.yesprep.org/covid19) ([www.yesprep.org/covid 19](http://www.yesprep.org/covid19)) dedicated to COVID-19 that can be referenced for basic information, resources and district updates. YES Prep will continue to monitor updates closely and keep you informed. Thank you for your support of our schools, our students and our teachers and staff.