



March 11, 2020

Dear St. George's Community,

While alerts and news of the latest presumed positive case come through on our various devices and the *WHO* officially declares the novel coronavirus outbreak a pandemic, the counsel that has served me well is to laugh when I can and to take deep breaths (which also reassures me that I'm not having shortness of breath). My favorite meme thus far is certainly the one that reads, "Coronavirus Prevention: Wash your hands like you gotta take your contacts out and you just finished eating crawfish!" Good counsel, indeed.

I mention this because one of the most cherished aspects of St. George's, ever and always, is our sense of community-- how we work in concert and good faith to take care of one another. This is why being a good steward of this community requires us to place our pandemic prevention and response planning in the context of those we serve: your children. We are entrusted to not just educate them but care for and cultivate their well-being. Health and safety are foremost in our preventions and planning, as is the continuity of our St. George's community even should there be disruptions as our school and city respond to what's been and continues to be an evolving and dynamic scenario.

With this in mind, please visit (or revisit) our designated portal on our website for all things COVID-19, including great counsel on how to model and teach good washing and hygiene for all viruses, as well as how to speak to your children and model calmness yourself. Know that we continue to review and enhance our deep cleaning and hygienic practices here, which have been supervised by our teachers and Nurse Penny. Additional hand sanitizers and saniwipes have also been ordered and restocked.

Travel and Exposure:

We also continue to follow the latest updates and directives from the [CDC](#) and the [Louisiana Office of Public Health](#), as well as consult directly and often with prominent health experts who are charged with the care and safety of our community at large. We depend upon the science and their expertise in our responses and decision-making.

To this end, we continue to need your help and support in taking stock of [COVID-19 symptoms](#) and the [CDC recommendations](#) on international travel. We ask that you reconsider travel plans to and from any country at a Level 3 Travel Health Notice. The requirement of returning from a Level 3 country is to stay at home for 14 days. The CDC additionally recommends anyone coming from a country at a Level 2 Notice to monitor their health and limit interactions with others. **Any member of our community who travels to a Level 2 or Level 3 region or country should notify [Nurse](#)**

[Penny Nunenmacher](#) so that the appropriate measures may be taken to protect the well-being of our community. We ask all community members to consider the value of non-essential travel to any area that is experiencing a high degree of disruption due to the coronavirus in the coming days and weeks. Our Pandemic Response Plan also compels us to remind you that **if any member of your family is aware of or has been contacted by authorities of possible exposure to the coronavirus, you should immediately notify Nurse Penny.** It is essential that any self-isolation measures required or recommended by health officials or St. George's be strictly observed for the safety of our entire community.

Events and Trips

Like many ISAS New Orleans schools and, indeed, all schools nationwide, we are also closely evaluating the need to postpone or cancel upcoming scheduled events and field trips, leaning again upon the direction and counsel of health experts and the CDC in doing so. Should a postponement or cancellation be the decision, we will notify the community with as much advance notice as we can, sooner rather than later.

Continuity of Learning Plans

With the growing number of presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in Orleans Parish, the administration has worked to develop a Continuity of Learning Plan that would be enacted in the case that we must restrict access to campus. The plan would allow St. George's to continue to provide academic learning experiences for our students, creating a familiar routine with division-specific and age-appropriate activities. Especially important to us is the inclusion of planning related to maintaining our sense of community with a continued focus on social-emotional learning through opportunities for social interaction, including morning meeting and advisory. As faculty members engage in professional development and our technology team prepares, I want to emphasize that though our campus may be required to close, St. George's as an educational institution and community *will remain open*. If this is the scenario, we will be an *StG at-home Community*.

Tech Inventory Survey

Speaking of our technology team, they have been working hard behind the scenes to consider the necessary tools for implementing online learning for our students. Below is a link to a Family Technology Google Form, which will allow us to better prepare for lesson planning and other interactive experiences. We ask that you complete the form and indicate the technology to which you have access by clicking [HERE](#).

Test of One Call Now Emergency System

Also, tomorrow we will initiate a test of our One Call Now system in the form of a text message. This system is used for time-sensitive or emergency communications, including school closures, changes to student dismissal times and severe weather. If you do not receive the text message by the end of the day tomorrow, please contact Katie Morton at communications@stgnola.org.

In the meantime, be well, take care of yourselves and each other, and wash those hands!
Remember... it's also crawfish season.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph Santogiovanni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "J".