



HEAD OF  
SCHOOL

Dear Governor's Community,

I write with an update on the work that we have been undertaking at Govs since the beginning of March break to ensure that we are as prepared as we can be for the COVID-19 outbreak that is now starting to spread quickly in the United States.

Many of you have no doubt seen that a number of colleges and universities across the country have extended their spring breaks, moved classes online for the near term, or even moved to some sort of remote learning for the remainder of the spring semester. The Crisis Management Team has been meeting on a regular basis since the COVID-19 outbreak began and we have continued to meet virtually over break to wrestle with these same issues. We are deeply engaged in charting a path forward for Govs that we believe will best meet the needs of our entire school community.

By way of recap, let me share the steps we have taken thus far in response to the outbreak:

- We ensured that all of our students from areas designated Level 3 by the CDC had safe places to stay during the March break since they would not be able to return home.
- We cancelled our March break trips to Italy and France on February 27, then cancelled all international school-sponsored travel which included the girls lacrosse team's trip to Costa Rica on March 4, and subsequently cancelled our boys baseball trip to Florida on March 10. Most recently (March 11) I decided to cancel all pre-season training on campus as we determine what steps we should take regarding the resumption of school after break. We continue to evaluate our overall policy for school-related travel and will have more to say on this subject in the coming days.
- Over March break our Facilities team arranged for a thorough cleaning of the campus so that when we return we can be assured that all spaces have been disinfected.
- Prior to leaving for March break we shared information with members of the faculty so that they could begin thinking about the possibility that it might at some point be necessary to hold classes virtually for a period of time.
- We collected information from all students, faculty, and staff about their spring break travel plans so that we could determine whether any members of the Govs community might need to self-isolate if their travels took them to a location that has been designated as "at-risk" by the CDC.
- We have been working with state and local health officials to be sure that if an outbreak of COVID-19 were to hit our campus, we would have the necessary supplies on hand to manage the outbreak.

We are closely following the Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), a range of independent school health consortiums, and news outlets daily for global, as well as North American, infectious disease news. The Crisis Management Team is in the process of finalizing a plan that will outline when March break will end, when spring classes will resume, and whether classes will meet virtually for some period of time. I anticipate being able to share a plan with you on Friday, March 13.

Thank you for your patience as we work to develop a plan that will protect the integrity of our program and keep our community safe.

My Best,  
Peter

---

1 Elm Street  
Byfield, MA 01922  
978.499.3131

[THEGOVERNORSACADEMY.ORG](http://THEGOVERNORSACADEMY.ORG)

