



OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

March 11, 2020

Dear Austin Prep Community,

As I have communicated many times, there is no higher priority than the health and safety of the Austin Prep family. Earlier today, I was informed that a member of the Austin Prep community may have been exposed to COVID-19 by a person with several degrees of separation from Austin Prep. At this point it is important to be clear that we are confident as we can be, that we do not have COVID-19 at Austin Prep. There have been no reported cases among our students or staff.

As soon I became aware of the situation, I reached out to the local and state departments of health. Based on their assessment of the situation, they have advised that Austin Prep is not required to close. Out of an abundance of caution, however, I am cancelling classes and all Austin Prep activities scheduled to be held on campus for Thursday, March 12 and Friday, March 13, 2020 so that we can disinfect campus facilities. As I have shared in previous correspondence, we have already augmented our cleaning procedures and have conducted a number of deep cleans.

The Town of Reading's Department of Health will revisit their assessment of the situation should the individual (who has several degrees of separation from Austin Prep) test positive for COVID-19. As I receive additional information, I will consult with health department officials and ask for their guidance to make a determination that keeps health and safety at the forefront. I will, of course, keep you apprised. I have shared what I know at this point in time.

Thanks for your patience, understanding, and cooperation during this unprecedented time. As always, please be in touch with me directly (jhickey@austinprep.org) if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Hickey' followed by a horizontal line.

James Hickey, Ph.D. P'22, '23, '24
Headmaster