

January 30, 2020

Dear Wardlaw+Hartridge Parents,

I am writing to update you on The Wardlaw+Hartridge School's efforts to monitor the widely-publicized novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and its implications for our community. Our efforts are informed by guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). Our priority is the safety of our community, and guidance from these experts will inform any future changes to our protocols. If news develops that leads us to change these protocols or adapt any of our programs to changing guidelines, we will inform you of those developments promptly.

The 2019-nCoV is a novel strain of a common family of viruses called coronaviruses. Coronavirus infections are most prevalent during the winter months and range in severity from the common cold to the more virulent strains that were responsible previously for outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). This novel strain was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, but cases have now been reported in several other countries, including a few current cases in the United States. The principal illness of concern caused by this virus is viral pneumonia. However, since the virulence of this particular strain and the risk profile of person-to-person transmission are still under investigation, the guidance for prevention, screening, and testing is still evolving and fluid. The most recent criteria for heightened concern and testing from the CDC read as follows:

1. A patient with fever AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND one or more of the following in the last 14 days before symptom onset: a. History of travel from Wuhan City, China, OR b. Close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.



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2. Fever OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND close contact with a confirmed 2019-nCoV case while the case was ill.

Please notify our school nurse, Angela Farese, if you have concerns for yourself or your child in light of these criteria before coming to campus. Visitors who have traveled abroad recently will be reviewed on an individual basis. We also ask that parents who have traveled recently in any areas where coronavirus is prevalent inform the school prior to coming to campus.

The CDC recommends the following steps to protect against any respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Thank you for your efforts in partnership with the school to keep your children and all of our children healthy by adhering to our policies regarding illness and attendance at school.

Best regards,



Andy Webster
Head of School