

## Topeka Collegiate Coronavirus Update #2-- March 13, 2020

Dear Eagles,

As we wrap-up spring break, we are reaching out to provide you with an update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The health and safety of our students is our top priority. And while this situation is rapidly evolving, there are steps we can take to prevent the spread of illness on our campus and in our community.

First, we're preparing for school to resume as planned on March 17, 2020, with a few extra precautions:

- **Exclusion Policy Extended:** Earlier this month we extended the Exclusion Policy from 24-hours to 48-hours. This means if your child has had any of the symptoms outlined in the policy within the past 48-hours, we ask that you keep them home from school. Please review the Exclusion Policy [here](#).
- **Self-Certification & Survey:** All families are required to complete the [Self-Certification & Survey](#) before returning to school on Tuesday. Those who have not completed the form will be asked to do so upon arrival on Tuesday morning. This information will be consulted if a student exhibits the symptoms listed in the Exclusion Policy while on campus. If you completed the previous survey (sent on March 6), please complete this expanded version, also.
- **Contact KDHE if you travelled internationally:** The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has advised that any students or staff who traveled out of the country over spring break are being asked to contact the Shawnee County Health Department at 785-806-6297 for guidance prior to returning to school.

Second, we know many of you have questions about school closures and the continuity of learning for our students. Topeka Collegiate will follow the guidance of KDHE and the Shawnee County Health Department regarding any school closures or quarantines. The Shawnee County Health Department has the authority to close schools and, at this time, they have not made the recommendation to do so. Based on current guidance, school will resume on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, as planned.

In the event that the health department recommends that schools close, we have plans in place to ensure that learning continues remotely while the building is closed. Any notification of school closure will be sent in a Parent Alert text message and in an email. Additionally, we've created a new webpage: [www.topekacollegiate.org/campus-life/coronavirusupdates.cfm](http://www.topekacollegiate.org/campus-life/coronavirusupdates.cfm). This

page will be updated daily and all updates like this one will be cataloged for future reference.

We also ask that you consider your own contingency plans. Talk to your employer about sick leave and telework opportunities. Consider alternative childcare. Proactively keep your child at home if they have an underlying health condition. Practice social distancing when possible. Perhaps most importantly, we also ask that you join us in implementing the following illness preventions strategies, as recommended by the health department:

- 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; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We also want to reiterate our respect for parental discretion regarding school attendance. If you are more comfortable keeping your child at home during this time, please do so. We will do whatever we can to support your decision.

Finally, if you or someone you know feels sick or is experiencing mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, please avoid contact with others and call ahead before going to the doctor's office or emergency room.

We're committed to maintaining a strong sense of community as we navigate this challenge together. We're so grateful for the insights and direction provided by board members, our staff, and community leaders. Our conversations have been thoughtful, caring and strategic, while always making sure that the well-being of our students is a top priority.

Thank you also to our Topeka Collegiate families - for your flexibility, patience and diligence during this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me personally at [lrantz@topekacollegiate.org](mailto:lrantz@topekacollegiate.org).

Thanks again,

Dr. Lyn Rantz