



Dear Winston School Community,

Over the past weeks, we have been inundated with media reports in regard to the coronavirus. As health experts with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) have noted: coronavirus is a virus strain that has only spread in people since December 2019. Little is known about this new virus and it does have the potential to cause severe illness in some people. The NJDOH further states: people who have been diagnosed with “novel coronavirus” (“novel” meaning “new”) have symptoms that may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms may include fever, cough and shortness of breath. The important point for us all to realize is that the virus is spreading rapidly and that travelers to and from certain areas of the world may be at increased risk. Therefore, as a standard protocol, I am asking that those families who have engaged in overseas travel be additionally responsible and vigilant of the possibilities of infection.

At Winston, we are taking our customary precautions to prevent the spread of flu and the common cold. These are protocols that we do as a matter of course on a daily basis and they are certainly relevant to preventing the spread of all viruses; they include:

- Constantly wiping down all surfaces as well as door handles and common areas with disinfectant cleaning cloths; our school custodian, Mr. Ishmael, is doing just this throughout the school day.
- Reminding children and adults to wash their hands thoroughly throughout the day, and to use the readily available hand sanitizer devices in the school buildings.
- Covering one’s mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Intensifying our regular daily and weekend cleaning and disinfecting of both school buildings—including classrooms and common areas.

I ask all families to take the possible spreading of all viruses and infections seriously and to make sure, despite the potential inconveniences, to keep children at home when they are sick (or demonstrate signs of illness whether there is a determined fever or not) and to provide ample time for your child to get better. Our school nurse has stated that a temperature of 100 degrees plus constitutes a fever.

At the same time, and in light of the coronavirus outbreak that is potentially

affecting all of us throughout the world, we at Winston will continue to be vigilant and will continue to devise and update protocols and procedures over time in line with the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the New Jersey Department of Education and other health advisory organizations.

In addition, while we do not want to engage in a “panic mentality” as a community, we do ask that all parents be cautious and responsible with their children. We ask for your patience with staff here at Winston as we similarly are cautious. I trust that we can work together as a community in ensuring the safety of all our community members.

Respectfully,

Peter S. Lewis
Head of School

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