

COVID19 Update #2

Dear SFS Community:

There is a beautiful, nesting hummingbird in our Adventure Playground. The sight of this bird in her flawlessly designed nest feels incredibly symbolic to me. I only know hummingbirds to move rapidly and yet, she is resting with stillness and measured purpose surrounded by the chaos of kids at play. It is this image that I implore us all to keep in mind as we are surrounded by uncertainty and unrest. At these times, clear and direct communication is critical. Please read this carefully and in its entirety.

We are increasing our school preparations as the COVID19 outbreak evolves. This morning, SFS parent, Monica Gandhi, MD, MPH (UCSF Department of Infectious Disease and Global Medicine) presented age-appropriate information to the K - 8th-grade students and staff on infectious disease and healthy hygiene habits. She was awesome! The recording of the sessions ([K - 3rd grade](#) and [4th - 8th grade](#)) and [slides](#) are available for the community. Please review them, and discuss some of the "takeaways" with your child this evening.

During this sensitive period when local outbreak of the coronavirus is probable, we ask our community members to have a heightened sense of caution and reinforce healthy habits at home.

- Please don't send your child to school if they are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms, and have a lower threshold than usual to keep them at home.
- Our threshold for dismissal from school will be lower. Children with a low-grade fever of 99.5F and a cough will be kept in isolation until a parent/caregiver takes them home.
- If you are not able to arrive at the school within an hour's notice, please have a contingency plan.
- Students should be fever-free (without fever-reducing medications) for 24 hrs before returning to school.
- If a family member or direct contact is under quarantine for COVID19 or has traveled to a high-risk area as defined by the CDC, please notify the school immediately.

The faculty will practice understanding and lenience for ill students with respect to late work and catching up academically. Furthermore, SFS staff members will be held to these same standards.

On-campus, as you will note in Monica's presentation, we need to avoid handshaking, hugging, practice good hand-washing, and respiratory etiquette. The school facilities underwent a deep cleaning over the February break. We have increased our daily sanitization of "high-touch" areas and all common surfaces (desks, hard surfaces, doorknobs, etc.) are cleaned with hospital-grade disinfectants nightly. Preparedness is something we can control at this time. With that in mind, we are developing school continuity plans for distance learning in

the event of school closure which, if that occurs, may last for two or more weeks. I ask that you too start to make plans at home in the event of possible school closure.

I am working with a close team of parent experts and admin as we continue to monitor developments and recommendations by the CDC and the SF Department of Public Health. As the situation evolves, our protocols may change unexpectedly. Our school's emergency communication system will be tested today at 2:00 pm. If you do not receive an alert, please contact the Front Desk. Please continue to monitor ParentSquare for further announcements or urgent messaging regarding COVID19. You may refer to the [Communicable Disease and Pandemic Outbreak Emergency Plan](#), or contact Terri Hamer or me with questions.

Lastly, please remember that risk of infection is not dependent on race, ethnicity, or culture. We will proceed with knowledge, understanding, and empathy while protecting ourselves and each other. We appreciate your patience and partnership as this unfolds.

Together,
Steve