

Coronavirus Update

I am sure many of you are closely following the news about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak around the world. The news may be causing some anxiety, as well as questions about SFS's preparedness. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that they expect the virus to spread in the United States, to date it has not published any guidelines for schools. That said, we are closely connected with the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) who will provide guidance as needed.

It is important to note that there are no cases reported in San Francisco, and the San Francisco Department of Public Health has not issued any warnings at this time. Feel free to peruse the [SFDPH website](#) or this [COVID-19 fact sheet](#) for more information.

The CDC also recommends the following steps to protect yourself and others:

1. Get your flu shot to protect against flu or symptoms similar to coronavirus
2. Wash your hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds
3. Cover your cough or sneeze
4. Keep sick family members at home until symptoms resolve

[Click here](#) for more recommendations from the CDC. Though there is some indication that people can be asymptomatic and carry the virus, as always, we ask that students, family members, employees, and guests who are ill not come to campus; please wait until you have been fever-free for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

We will communicate contingency plans should additional preventative measures be necessary. As the global situation continues to change and San Francisco takes steps to protect our community, we are preparing for urgent developments. For example, you might consider what arrangements your family will make in the event of an unexpected school closure.

Lastly, as adults, I encourage us all to remain measured and model constructive dialogue in our own communications about the coronavirus, in particular, when in the presence of children. Here is a great [resource](#) to help educators and parents/guardians prevent racialization and xenophobia around the disease.

Together,

Steve Morris
Head of School