

Coronavirus Message #2

Dear Members of the SRV Community,

Like all of you, I continue to be concerned about the novel coronavirus and how it might impact our students, families, employees, and community members. I write today to share the latest information we have and some decisions we have made to look out for the wellbeing of our school community and the region.

What We Know

On the evening of March 8, the Pennsylvania Department of Health announced two presumptive positive cases of coronavirus in Montgomery County. That brings the total number of cases in Pennsylvania to four, one of which is in Delaware County. All four patients are in stable condition at their homes and have mild symptoms. None of the four cases are community spread. All four patients had recently traveled to an area where the coronavirus is present. There has not been a reported case of coronavirus at SRV.

The situation is changing daily. We have formed a Crisis Management Team and are taking the following steps on a routine basis to make sure that we have accurate and current information.

- Checking the CDC and WHO websites and staying in communication with the Wallingford Swarthmore School District nurse and [the Department of Intercommunity Health Coordination \(ICH\)](#).
- Reviewing regular updates from our governing bodies, such as the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools and Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools (ADVIS)
- Consulting with local school leaders to share information and compare strategies

What the School is Doing

We have increased the frequency and intensity of professional cleaning by a professional cleaning service, with a focus on common areas and the wiping down of surfaces, handles, railings, light switches, and doorknobs. Staff clean daily with a bleach and water mix using towels that are washed at the School. Teachers instruct children to greet others with elbows or fist bumps, not touch their faces, cough or sneeze into their elbows, and wash their hands frequently.

What Students and Families Can Do

You can help with prevention at home by staying at home and informing the School if you or your child is sick. At this point, we are not prohibiting school-related travel, but are strongly discouraging our staff from traveling, both domestically and internationally, for non-essential purposes, particularly by air, to large gatherings,

and to areas experiencing high numbers of coronavirus cases, as [documented by the CDC](#). While these guidelines apply to the SRV staff, we trust that members of our community are applying similar judgment in considering personal travel commitments and taking all possible precautions before traveling, including staying up to date on the latest spread of the virus and considering difficulties you may encounter in returning home, especially when traveling internationally.

For more information about the coronavirus, you can access the following resources:

[The CDC Coronavirus FAQ](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Live Update and FAQ](#)

[PA Dept. of Health Coronavirus Instructions for K-12 Schools](#)

[Delaware County Coronavirus Personal Safety Measures](#)

What To Expect From Here

Should the School need to close, you will be notified via the My Student's Progress Interface. You will receive a text and a phone call to both your cell and your home phone, as well as an email with a brief message notifying you that the School will be closed. I will follow up with more specific information about the duration of the closure and academic program continuity shortly after the initial alert. If you have a new email address or phone number that is not in MSP, please let the office know.

Prolonged school closure would disrupt learning, so it is important that we are clear about our aims should the School be forced to close for a long duration. Our primary goal in regard to program continuity is to maintain the strong sense of community and social bonds that students have with their teachers. Toward this, we are proactively working to establish an online platform that would allow teachers to connect daily with students and parents. As we identify the best solution, we are being mindful of the developmental needs of our learners across grades and considering the impact of not having access to their peers for long periods of time. We will provide further information as we develop these plans.

For more information about how to talk with your children about the coronavirus and about the social and emotional impact of prolonged isolation, you can access the following resources:

[Talking to Teens and Tweens About Coronavirus](#)

[Talking to Children About Coronavirus: A Parent Resource](#)

I am sure that the daily flood of information that you are seeing from the media and local organizations must feel overwhelming. In these times of anxiety, I think of the words of Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize—the first person and the only woman to win the Nobel prize twice. She wrote, “Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more so that we may fear less.” I want you to know that I am being extremely vigilant and will send a weekly communication with any updates, regardless of whether there has been a significant shift in how the coronavirus is manifesting. If I can take any of the burden of worry from you, even for a brief respite, please let me do so and take time away from the news and spend it with your children, take a deep breath, stay calm, and don’t miss out on life.

In Partnership,

Rod Stanton
Head of School
The School in Rose Valley