

Carmel Christian school

Carmel Christian Families,

As we head into a long holiday weekend, we wanted to provide you with some more information regarding the precautions we are taking to promote a healthy school environment in light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns. We are closely monitoring all guidance and directives provided by the [Centers for Disease Control](#) as well as [state](#) and [local](#) health departments. The health of our students is a top priority, and we appreciate your partnership as we work toward that goal.

First, the following are steps and procedures that we have implemented on the Carmel Christian campus:

- While you are away this Monday and Tuesday for Winter Break, we will implement a deep cleaning on all rooms regularly used by CCS.
- As communicated previously, Carmel Baptist Church requests that anyone returning from [Level 3 or higher restricted countries](#) (Current CDC Level 3 countries: S. Korea, Iran, Europe, and China), or those that have been in close contact with someone returning from these countries, refrain from visiting the campus for 14 days after either leaving the country or having contact with a person as defined above. Close contact includes, but is not limited to, those who live at the same address, classmates, friends and co-workers.
- Faculty and support staff are cleaning classrooms and public areas (water fountains, bathrooms, door handles, etc.) daily with disinfectants.
- Nurses are helping the principals and teachers educate students on behaviors that promote health (listed below).
- Any case of confirmed flu or strep is being reported to the nurses so that they can communicate those instances with our facilities director who can prioritize additional cleaning. Please notify the nurses' office (nurse@carmelchristian.org) if your child has a confirmed case of flu or strep or if anyone in your family has Coronavirus symptoms (fever, shortness of breath, and cough).

In addition, please join us in encouraging the following practices [recommended by the CDC](#):

- Stop handshaking -- use other non-contact methods of greeting
- Clean hands at regular intervals -- wash with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching one's face and cover coughs and sneezes
- Do not share food
- Stay home if you are feeling sick

Regarding the last bullet point, while our Family Handbook states limits on student absences, we recognize that the current circumstances require us to be flexible. If your child is sick, we want him or her to stay home. Principals are monitoring absence totals and if your child's absences are close to or exceed those allowed, your child's principal will contact you. We will extend the limit for sickness and work with you to help your child succeed in their classes.

While we have no current plans to implement distance learning, we are developing the capacity to continue class instruction remotely should the need arise. Academic leaders and our IT team have scheduled faculty training and will lead this effort.

We are relying on our local health officials to provide guidance regarding school programming. In this regard, we are reviewing our planned field trips, events and activities and will let you know of any significant changes.

If your child is at increased risk of severe illness due to a [medical condition](#), please notify your principal so that we can consider implementing individual plans for distance learning.

In closing, an Italian pastor's excellent blog post on "[8 Things the Coronavirus Should Teach Us](#)" reminded me that we live in a world that "groans" for God to make all things new (Romans 8:22-23). Until then, He is in control, and we are not. While there is reason for concern, we have a greater reason for hope and peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:6-7). Let us pass that peace to each other and our neighbors as we trust in Him.

Sincerely,
Jay Hancock
Head of School