

**February 27, 2020**

Hello PGUSD Families,

As you are likely aware, on Tuesday, February 25th, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) gave a press conference updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and what steps should be taken moving forward. We wanted to share with you some of the steps our school is taking to prevent the spread of illness across our campus, and plan for the possible spread of the coronavirus in our community. As the CDC emphasized, there is not currently a coronavirus pandemic in the United States. A pandemic occurs when a disease is spreading from a variety of sources across a large region, and the number of cases across the U.S. is still small. However, given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we are monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions daily. In the meantime, the most effective way to stay healthy and minimize the spread of infectious disease is to follow basic health best practices like: Enforcing effective hygiene such as washing hands thoroughly or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer in the absence of soap and water before touching eyes, nose, and mouth, handling food, after using the restroom, and after using a tissue to manage illness. Covering up coughs and sneezes.

Asking all faculty, staff, and students who are feeling ill to stay home and avoid being in public areas until they recover according to PGUSD illness policy.

Our community is working on a plan so that we are prepared to alter our procedures should the situation change. We are also thinking ahead regarding the impact spring travel, upcoming school trips, and other non-typical school activities will have in the context of the coronavirus. We will communicate any changes affirmatively when the time is appropriate. It is important to remember that handling the spread of a serious contagion like the coronavirus is primarily a task for public health agencies. Any directives from the World Health Organization, CDC, or local governmental organizations should be followed.

For more information: Check the World Health Organization website daily for updates – Resources include a centralized coronavirus page and an interactive map tracking its spread. You can find the CDC page on Coronavirus Prevention & Treatment strategies [here](#). Other questions may be answered on the WHO's "Myth Busters" page on the coronavirus.

In times like this, we are particularly grateful for the strength and togetherness of this community.

Please continue to look for further communications from us on this matter.

Sincerely, Katrina Powley, RN PGUSD Nurse (831) 646-6514