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Dear Omni Community,

It seems that everywhere we turn, the topic of conversation is the latest update on the coronavirus. As a result, we wish to ensure that you have some resources at your fingertips to assist you in conversations with your children. In addition, we thought that you might like to know what we are doing at Omni in regards to the potential for an outbreak in the Charlotte area.

Resources

We recommend the following resources for information:

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is providing regular updates and
 - [have information readily available about the virus.](#)
 - [have information about travel advisories.](#)
- Johns Hopkins Medicine recently published [a comparison of seasonal flu and COVID-19.](#)
- Healthline recently published [How to Talk to Your Kids about the Coronavirus.](#)
- Psychology Today recently published [How to Talk to Your Anxious Child about the Coronavirus.](#)

Current Status

As always, the safety, security and wellbeing of our students, employees and families is a top priority. We have been, and will continue to, closely monitor the status of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. At present, we have no knowledge of confirmed or suspected cases in the Charlotte area. In addition, we have consistently followed our health and wellness best practices across our two campuses, including:

- Providing lessons on handwashing and reminding students and adults alike to wash hands frequently, and especially before eating and after toileting.
- Reminding students to cough and sneeze into a tissue and then dispose the tissue immediately. If a tissue is not available, then a bent elbow is an alternative.
- Reminding students to refrain from touching their eyes, noses and mouths.
- Repeatedly cleaning surfaces that are frequently touched like tables, chairs, door handles, etc.
- Encouraging those who are sick to remain at home. Omni's policy continues to be that students and employees should remain at home for a minimum of 24 hours after they have been fever free without the assistance of fever reducing medication.

We have also reviewed and updated our school's already existing communicable disease and pandemic policy.

Travel

Many of our parents are required to travel for business or other reasons and many of our families have travel plans for our spring break in April. If you will be traveling over the next several weeks, please carefully check the [CDC Travelers website](#) and the [State Department website](#) to ensure a safe experience for you and your family. We recognize that families may have travel plans for spring break that include international travel. As of this mailing, the State Department has issued a [travel guidance related to COVID-19](#) that includes a Warning Level 3 (avoid all nonessential travel) for China, Iran, Italy and South Korea. For the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak, or until further notice, we ask for your cooperation with the following protocol:

If you are traveling internationally in a country where either the State Department or the CDC have issued an Alert Level 2, or Warning Level 3 or 4, or if you have been in contact with a traveler who has recently returned from these areas, please notify us at omni.montessori@omni-montessori.org. While it may be an unlikely scenario, our school reserves the right to require a family member, student, or employee to remain away from school for up to 14 days from the date of return to the United States or from the date of contact with a traveler from those Alert/Warning areas. A physician's release may be required before returning to school. The link to the incubation period of COVID-19 as determined by the CDC can be [found here](#).

Omni has one international student trip planned for the coming weeks. We will monitor updates from the CDC as well as the travel advisories from the State Department as we make decisions about this upcoming adventure. Likewise, we will be monitoring the health risks of domestic travel as part of our routine decision-making process for the remainder of the trips planned for the school year.

We hope that the above resources and information are useful to you while simultaneously assuring you that we are monitoring the situation closely. The Leadership Team will continue to meet regularly to review and re-assess the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, we remain in close communication with many schools and organizations across the state who are facing similar considerations, including NCAIS (North Carolina Association of Independent Schools) and SAIS (Southern Association of Independent Schools).

We will continue to provide updates and ongoing information. We very much appreciate your patience, cooperation and support as we work together for the health and safety of our school community.

Warm Regards,



Cindy Curry
Head of School