



/March 3, 2020

Dear Shelton Staff and Parents,

As you are likely aware, on Tuesday, February 25, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) held a press conference updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and what steps should be taken moving forward. Both the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) are issuing regular updates to increase public awareness about lowering the potential risk of spreading the virus.

As the CDC emphasized at its press conference, 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. The CDC has confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in people under federal quarantine in San Antonio. There are currently no other cases in Texas and the Texas Department of Health continues to indicate that the risk for all Texans remains low. However, given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we are monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions daily.

Shelton staff have been in regular contact with Dallas County Health and Human Services to monitor this situation and prepare for the possibility of confirmed cases closer to home in North Texas. As we have done in the past with other outbreaks of viruses, Shelton is prepared to implement and follow protocols and guidelines as directed by health authorities if necessary.

In the meantime, following these preventive measures is the most effective way to help reduce the spread of seasonal flu and COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and help young children do the same.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Wash hands after certain activities, including bathroom breaks, recess and before lunch.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands). Wash your hands after handling used tissues.

In situations like these where media reports may cause concerns among our families, it is best to rely on factual information from reliable sources. Here are links to information about COVID-19 from local, state, national and international health organizations:

national and international health organizations.

- Dallas County Health and Human Services
<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus.php>
- Texas Department of State Health Services
<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>
- World Health Organization
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

At Shelton, we are prepared to alter our procedures and planning as needed, including implementation of E-learning for virtual classrooms if required. We are thinking ahead regarding the impact of spring travel, upcoming school trips, and other non-typical school activities.

As we prepare for our Spring Break, March 16–20, 2020, it is highly likely that the current travel advisories from the CDC will remain in place and be expanded, making international travel difficult and plans uncertain in the weeks to come. We encourage you to carefully consider any travel plans which would take you to or through any affected areas as identified in the travel advisories, and please be aware that the advisories and restrictions can change without advance notice. These restrictions could be at the direction of the CDC or the airlines and your return to the United States and Dallas may be impacted and delayed. Given the rapidly changing international public health situation, we urge you to take all necessary advance precautions regarding your travel plans. For questions about travel you can go to the CDC link with FAQ:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>

We also want to assure you that throughout the school year, and in the winter months especially, Shelton works to closely monitor illnesses, such as the flu. We also work with our custodial teams to ensure our campuses receive more frequent and thorough cleanings during flu season, especially in high-traffic, high-touch areas.

If your children are worried and anxious about the Covid-19 outbreak, [click here](#) for an article about how to talk to your children. Also, [click here](#) for a link to a cartoon about Covid-19 made specifically for kids.

The health and safety of every member of the Shelton community is our priority. We will continue to monitor the situation and follow all directives and recommendations as more information becomes available, and we are grateful to everyone for their ongoing support as the situation continues to develop.

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