



March 10, 2020

Dear Nobles Parents, Guardians and Students,

As we prepare for spring break, and as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to evolve, I want to update you on our Coronavirus Response Task Force planning and recommendations for families.

We continue to closely monitor updates and recommendations from local and state organizations, including the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [World Health Organization](#) and the [U.S. Department of State](#). We are also staying informed about the related decisions of peer schools as well as colleges and universities.

Preventative Measures

We have been working with [UG2](#), Nobles' cleaning company, to evaluate our daily cleaning to ensure it is sufficiently robust in light of both the recent influenza and coronavirus outbreaks. On a daily basis, we will clean campus thoroughly, disinfecting doorknobs, railings and other frequently touched surfaces.

While we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Nobles, we are approaching our campus cleaning with an abundance of caution. We have decided to implement periodic deep cleanings of the entire campus, which began on Sunday. Using hospital-grade disinfectants, this cleaning includes every single hard surface a person might touch—bathrooms, stairwells, desks and chairs, athletic equipment, light switches and even assembly seating. We also continue to encourage community members to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly and avoid touching their faces.

Travel

Early last week, we canceled all domestic and international Nobles trips through March. This included six international and five domestic trips scheduled to run over spring break. This difficult decision was made as we evaluated the potential health risks from travel combined with the risks associated with the national and international response to the outbreak.

As we continue to monitor this evolving situation, we recognize the increased likelihood that travel restrictions, quarantines and challenges returning to the United States from abroad will expand. Based on information from our network of resources, and our assessment of this rapidly changing situation, we discourage Nobles community members from traveling internationally over spring break.

Planning for Virtual Learning

While I continue to hope we do not have any interruption to our program related to this outbreak, I also want to ensure we are prepared should it be necessary.

Over the last several weeks, we have assembled an academic team charged with developing substantive planning to ensure we are prepared should we need to close for a short or long period of time at some point during this outbreak. The team has done tremendous work in pulling together a robust plan and securing the resources to ensure we can support the continuation of our program should on-campus activities be impacted.

These plans include the ability for classes to continue through a virtual classroom, and for students to manage and submit homework and assessments electronically. We are currently surveying our students to ensure all leave for break with the necessary hardware and ability to connect online. We are also equipping all of our faculty with needed tools and support as they leave for break to implement our virtual learning plan should it be necessary. Friday morning, all of our faculty will be participating in training around our plans for virtual instruction.


Communication

Please continue to check your email during break, as we anticipate we will be sending updated information related to campus activities.

If you have any reason to believe you or a member of your household has been exposed to coronavirus or may be infected by COVID-19, please inform us so we can best protect the health and wellbeing of the Nobles community.

As always, we greatly appreciate your support and partnership. I hope your spring break is filled with wonderful time with your family.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Hall". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Catherine J. Hall, Ph.D.
Head of School