



February 27, 2020

Good Morning Connelly Community,

While I do not want to cause alarm, I feel it is important to address growing concerns over coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as it is certainly monopolizing much of the news these days. Yesterday, while listening to NPR, the subject of school preparedness in the event of closure due to illness came up. While we are not at immediate risk for COVID-19, the disease is becoming more widespread in California and, just yesterday, a patient was diagnosed with COVID-19 who had, apparently, no contact with a person who tested positive for the virus. Given new knowledge and wanting to be proactive rather than reactive, I am working on a plan that I will provide to our faculty and staff in the coming days that will address the following concerns:

1. Prevention Practices
2. Learning Continuity Plan
3. Business of School

In the meantime, and since there is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), please read and follow the information below to best avoid being exposed to this virus. As a reminder, the CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
 - Follow CDC's recommendations for using a face mask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of face masks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses. In an effort to help keep our environment safe, I will be providing each faculty and staff member with Clorox wipes to be used in the classrooms and works space. In addition, if students are visibly ill or coughing excessively, they will be provided a mask so as not to infect anyone with anything, including the common cold. Parents or guardians will be contacted to discuss further care. Please share with me any concerns you might have and, together, we can work through them.

In Peace,

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