

March 2nd, 2020

Dear Middlesex Parents,

As a small, residential community with students from across the world, we at Middlesex have been closely monitoring developments concerning COVID-19. The safety and well being of our students, faculty, and staff are our greatest responsibility, and there is new information almost daily about the worldwide impact of COVID-19. We want you to know that a group of school administrators and health professionals continues to work carefully to proactively prepare for -- and respond to -- the various challenges presented by this challenge to world health.

One of the necessary elements of our preparation to meet this potential challenge is to have good information about where our students are traveling over March break. **We ask that all parents follow the link below to let us know about your child's travel plans**, and if they may be in contact with others who have recently traveled to or arrived from areas affected by the virus. Please fill out this survey by **3pm on Wednesday, March 4th**. Survey responses will only be viewed by appropriate school personnel.

[Click here for the March break travel plans survey](#)

We ask that students and family members do not travel to geographic areas that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified as having widespread or sustained community transmission of the coronavirus. Currently, the countries that the CDC has issued Level 2 or 3 warnings for are Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea and China. The situation changes day-to-day, and in addition to the increased risk of infection or transmission of the virus, we certainly would not want any of our students to be excluded from school by any new federal quarantine regulations, or by our own policies. Please monitor [CDC's global Risk Assessment Levels for COVID-19](#), as new countries may be added over time.

To this point, our immediate focus has been to ensure that all Middlesex students have safe, viable travel plans for our upcoming March break. And while federal travel restrictions have presented various pragmatic obstacles, we have also been very mindful of the intangible and emotional burden that many of our students are bearing as they worry about family and friends living in quarantined regions. We have made it a priority to help all of these students with our deep support system of advisors, dorm faculty, counselors, and student leaders.

One of our most significant challenges with COVID-19 is the ever-changing health recommendations, travel and quarantine restrictions for non-citizens -- and potentially citizens as well -- entering the United States, travel advisories and warnings, and shifting timelines related to the virus. In response to this fluidity, our administrators have been working to align the appropriate resources to prepare for the many possibilities we may be presented with in the coming months.

To help coordinate our planning efforts, our Director of Health Services, Meg McLaughlin, is chairing our COVID-19 Advisory Committee. She is joined on the committee by Middlesex administrators David Beare (Head of School), Karlyn McNall (Assistant Head of School), Matt Crozier (Chief Operating Officer), Terry Cunningham (Chief Financial Operator), Dan Sheff (Dean of Students), Doug Price (Dean of Admissions), Rob Munro (Director of Global Studies), and Eric Kester (Director of Strategic Communications). The committee also includes local health experts with whom we work closely, including Susan Rask (Concord Public Health Director), Tricia McGean (Public Health Nurse), Dr. Michael Glazier (School Physician), and Dr. Marcus Favero (Consulting Psychiatrist).

The COVID-19 Advisory Committee is meeting regularly to carefully consider the range of possible scenarios and to create actionable directives for Middlesex to follow in the event of unfavorable developments. Following recommendations from the CDC, the World Health Organization, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the Department of Public Health, the committee is helping the school prepare for areas of potential risk in both the near and long term. Very importantly, they will work to ensure that our campus remains up-to-date with all recommended preventative measures and is prepared to effectively respond if COVID-19 begins spreading locally.

We have developed a comprehensive communication plan to ensure that, regardless of the global uncertainty around the virus, you are continually well informed about Middlesex's responses and plans. We will provide prompt updates as they become available, and you are always welcome to direct individual questions to the Health Center (978-371-6583; healthcenter@mxschool.edu) or Deans' Office (978-372-6546; deans@mxschool.edu).

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility as we all work together in navigating this complex global situation.

Best regards,
David J. Beare
Head of School