



Dear TPA Community,

We write today with another update about the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19). Bulleted below are the most recent developments related to COVID-19:

- Two cases of coronavirus have been identified in Alameda County.
- Health officials in Alameda County declared a public health emergency. (This declaration helps to mobilize county resources, response, outreach and communications.)
- We will be in communication with our local health officials in order to develop the criteria that might lead to a school closure. We do not have any evidence of a need to do so at this time, but as you know the picture can change rapidly.

Although there is no way to predict how COVID-19 will spread in Alameda County, we should assume that there will be more cases and take preventive action. Our schools can play an important role in slowing the spread of diseases and ensuring a safe, healthy learning environment for our students.

We are continuing to recommend the following:

- Encourage frequent hand-washing and best-practice hygiene/protection throughout the school day; and especially before and after recess, before and after lunch, and before and after snacks;
- Encourage sick students and staff to stay home;
- Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting our school, paying special attention to high traffic surfaces, including door knobs, water fountains, counters, chromebooks, etc. function who might benefit from proactive home instruction earlier than other students.

Depending on local developments and public health recommendations, **we may in the future need** to take the following actions:

- Limit or cancel large gatherings and extracurricular activities including, sports, and clubs;
- Cancel assemblies and field trips. (At this point, the Alameda County Public Health Department is NOT recommending this action, but may make that recommendation in the near future.)
- Temporarily close the school. This situation continues to evolve and we want to assure you that we are planning for several contingencies. Currently, health officials are recommending temporary closure of a school for at least two weeks ONLY after a confirmed diagnosis is made known. Given this possibility, we are exploring how we might be able to implement distance learning to prevent disruptions to educational programs for our students.

We thank you for your patience and for taking proactive steps to keep sick students home. We understand that this situation can cause disruptions to normal routines, but we are grateful for your understanding and partnership.

To the extent we receive new information that leads us to urgent action, we will notify you via the usual channels as soon as possible: email and website (www.thePhillipsAcademy.org).

Respectfully,

Esther Cohen, Ph.D.
Executive Director