Dear Stanley Community,

We want to provide you with an update on our activities related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). At this time, there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Colorado. Individual risk is based on exposure to anyone who has had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19. However, we recognize that this situation is receiving unprecedented levels of coverage in the media and may be causing increased worry within your families. We also recognize that this situation is changing rapidly, and our top priority is ensuring that Stanley is well prepared should COVID-19 impact our school community directly.

Stanley has formed a special task force of our Emergency Response Team comprised of myself, Director of Operations, Buffy Naake, our three division heads, Student Health Coordinator, Melissa Knott, and Communications Director, Stacey Toevs. This team is in daily communication with each other and I am in close contact with leadership at our peer schools and ACIS. We are developing Stanley’s response based on information and advisement from local, state and federal authorities, including the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These agencies provide guidance specifically for K-12 schools. In the event there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Colorado, we will be ready to take specific direction from our public health authorities.

In the meantime, we know that awareness and preparedness are critical. This is what we would like our families to know:

**What is COVID-19?**  
You can learn more about the [COVID-19 virus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/) from the Centers for Disease Control.

**What is the health risk from COVID-19 in Colorado?**  
Colorado has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at this time, though cases in our state may well appear in the coming days or weeks.

**What do we know about the risks to children?**  
There is no evidence that children are more susceptible to COVID-19. Most confirmed cases have occurred in adults. In outbreaks of SARS and MERS, infection among children was relatively uncommon and symptoms were mild. There have been very few confirmed cases of children with COVID-19. The reports available indicate that COVID-19 symptoms in children may present mildly.

**What steps is the school taking?**  
At Stanley, we are following guidance on managing infectious disease and undertaking the following additional precautions:

- Providing regular classroom reminders about handwashing and good hygiene
- Designating a specific spot in the lobby for sick kids to wait to be picked up by parents if they need to go home
- Adding focus to our nightly janitorial practice on disinfecting hard surfaces in classrooms and common spaces
• Supporting our families with resources for having conversations with children who may be worried about what they are hearing in the news (see below)
• Monitoring guidance from local and state public health authorities
• Sharing what we know with our community as our response evolves in accordance with information and advisement received from local, state and federal public health authorities

What can I do to keep my family healthy?
We are advised by the CDE and CDC that the best steps we can all take is to follow the same practices as you would during flu season.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water
• Cover coughs and sneezes
• Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects
• Stay home if you are sick
• Avoid close contact with other people (Keep a distance of at least 10 feet)
• Follow the How Sick is Too Sick guidelines from CDPHE and Children’s Hospital Colorado for school communities

Please also refer to Stanley’s Parent and Family Handbook and the school’s web page for additional guidance on managing infectious disease.

How can I do my part to keep Stanley a healthy and safe community?
It is critical that no child attend school unless they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours. The importance of practicing good hygiene and hand washing at home and while out in the community cannot be over-stated. The American Academy of Pediatrics provides useful information at www.healthychildren.org.

What about spring break and families who travel?
We know that many of our families travel regularly, and/or may have plans to travel over Spring Break. With the wellbeing of our entire community foremost in our mind, Stanley asks that you do the following if you are traveling internationally in coming weeks:
• Consult the CDC’s latest travel advisories and country-specific risk classification levels prior to travel.
• Consult the CDC again for updated information upon your return, as the situation is rapidly evolving.
• Inform Buffy Naake, Director of Operations, if travel plans include one of the countries classified by the CDC as Level 2 or Level 3.

We respectfully request that families carefully consider travel plans, the possibility of travel interruptions and/or quarantine, and the potential impacts of these on you, your family, and others in your community. Please know that should your student require quarantine post-travel, we will make accommodations for him or her to continue their school work remotely.

What are the school’s plans for spring trips like Calwood, Moab, Snow Mountain Ranch, and Con Law?
Currently, all domestic travel and field trips are moving ahead as planned. In evaluating the latest information, if we determine any changes and/or cancellations to programs are necessary, we will keep the community updated. We will evaluate the feasibility of each of our field trips and overnight trips on a trip-by-trip basis based on the specific needs and circumstances of the trip.

What are the school’s plans for the England trip?
In the coming weeks, we will consider guidance from our local public health authorities, the CDC and specifically the US State Department. If we feel there is a need to change our plans for this trip, we will communicate with families as soon as possible.
What are the plans for continued instruction if school needs to be canceled?
In the unlikely event we would need to close school for a period of time as directed by health authorities, we are committed to providing a continuation of our educational program. We are beginning to make plans for what remote learning might look like at each of our grade-level divisions, and we will be communicating more about what this will look like in the coming days, should this become necessary.

How can I help my children understand and feel less anxious?
We know that the level of news coverage of COVID-19 is alarming. As with any emergency or difficult current event, we are committed to supporting our children in developmentally healthy ways. Our highest priority is reassuring students that school is a safe place. We will be working with our teachers to make sure they have access to information to thoughtfully address any concerns students may raise.

As parents, we recognize these conversations can be difficult. These are just a few resources that might be helpful.

- How to Talk to Kids About Coronavirus
- Talking to Teens and Tweens About Coronavirus
- How to Talk to Your Kids About the Coronavirus Outbreak

Thank you for your continued partnership. We want to acknowledge that this situation may be causing difficult levels of stress or worry in your families or for your children, particularly if you have loved ones in affected areas. We are committed to a thorough and thoughtful response informed by facts and public health expertise.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Warmly,
Tim