March 9, 2020

Dear Stanley Community,

We want to provide you with an update on our activities related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). As of March 7, there were 8 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Colorado with two in Denver County. This letter builds on information we’ve shared to our community on March 3 and March 6 (these letters can be found on our website [here](http://www.stanleybps.org)). You can now expect a daily email updating you on developing events and the school’s activities related to prevention, preparedness and response. Please visit our dedicated page at stanleybps.org/covid19 for managing communications and resources specifically pertaining to COVID-19.

In this letter, we will share what we know about the impact of COVID-19 in Denver schools, address Stanley’s current decision-making processes related to school closure, remote teaching and learning, community events, and school trips, and share some additional reminders and resources.

**Impact in Denver Schools-Update**

St. Anne’s Episcopal School will remain closed on Monday and Tuesday this week related to a presumptive positive diagnosis of a parent in their community. On March 7, East High School reported that two students and their parents have voluntarily self-quarantined, following guidance from public health authorities. Denver Public Schools reports that there are no plans to change schedules at East at this time, and that they have been advised by public health authorities that the risk to the student body is considered low. We are following these situations closely and are in contact with ACIS school leaders and public health authorities as this is a rapidly changing environment.

**Stanley’s Decision Making**

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our top priority. Our COVID-19 Task Force is monitoring multiple sources of information regularly and is working continually to ensure we are all informed and that our plans are thoughtfully executed to support our community under these difficult circumstances.

**How will a decision be made to close the school?**

Our COVID-19 Task Force has been working through various scenarios involving presumptive positive COVID-19 virus in our community and we are prepared to act promptly. The COVID-19 Task Force will make school closure decisions with advisement from public health authorities. As of March 6, the guidance we have received from the Colorado Department of Public Health, the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment and the Colorado Department of Education, is that if we have a presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in our parent, staff or student population, we would develop school closure protocols in conjunction with public health authorities. Ultimately, the decision to close school for any length of time will come from me, in consultation with our board of trustees.

It is important to note that, at this time, the guidance we have received, and which is also being communicated by Denver Public Schools, is that if an individual has been exposed to someone who is positive for COVID-19 and they are not symptomatic they are not currently considered a contagion risk.

**How will my child’s education continue in the event of an extended school closure?**
Our division heads are collaborating diligently to determine the best ways to ensure continuity in the educational experiences of all our students. We are being thoughtful about the tools we will use, the benefits and limitations of screen-based instruction and learning, and the need to blend social-emotional programming in all that we offer. Our preparation will include ensuring every student has access to any technology or materials needed to complete remote assignments and projects. We will have more information to share about our approach in the coming days.

**Will community events and gatherings be canceled?**

Spring is a busy time of year at Stanley, and we have many community events scheduled. At this time, we do not have information to indicate our plans for these events should be altered, but we remain diligent and flexible should it become necessary to cancel. We will provide as much advance notice as possible. Please review our daily emails and watch our school calendar for updated information.

**Will spring trips be canceled?**

We will make decisions about the safety of trips like Calwood, Snow Mountain Ranch, Moab and Con Law with guidance from public health authorities, and with a consideration of the many other factors involved in running these trips. At this time, we do not have plans to cancel these trips, but you can expect a decision from the school no later than March 27.

**Will the England trip be canceled?**

Unfortunately, we have determined it is necessary to cancel the England trip for the safety and well-being of our students and faculty. Greg will be sharing this news to students later this afternoon and I communicated with parents and teachers earlier today.

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**Making Sure Stanley is a Healthy Community**

It is paramount that we all take responsibility for our health, not only for our own well-being, but to ensure our community stays healthy, especially for those among us who are already at higher risk. **Please note, we now ask that anyone – parent, teacher or student – be fever-free for 48 hours before returning to campus.** 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](https://www.aap.org/) provides useful information as well.

Please remember these steps while at school, at home, and in the broader community.

- 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](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/sickguidelines) guidelines from CDPHE and Children’s Hospital Colorado for school communities

Please also refer to Stanley’s [Parent and Family Handbook](https://example.com) and the school’s web page for additional guidance on managing infectious disease.

**Reporting Attendance**

Please be sure you are reporting attendance to attendance@stanleybps.org. The staff that receive this email are Student Health Coordinator, Melissa Knott, and front desk staff, Andy Lebovich and Mona Akbari. To the extent you are comfortable sharing details of your child’s illness, this information can help us manage potentially contagious situations proactively, just as we do in the case of influenza.

**Spring Break Travel Plans**
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](https://www.cdc.gov/travel) 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. Buffy can be reached at buffy.naake@stanleybps.org or 303-360-0803, Ext. 185.

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.

**Resources to Support Families**

This is a very stressful, confusing and quickly changing situation - we’d like to share these resources that may support you and your children in family conversations.

**For Our Children**


You an also find the following articles on our COVID-19 web page [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov).  

- [How to Talk to Kids About Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- [How to Talk to Your Kids About the Coronavirus Outbreak](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

**Public Health Resources**

- [Denver Department of Public Health and Environment COVID-19](https://www.dpd.gov)
- [Colorado Department of Public Health COVID-19 Updates](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/covid-19)
- [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [US State Department Travel Advisories](https://travel.state.gov)

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We know this is an increasingly stressful environment for all of us, especially our children, and we know that many of us have family members who are at greater risk. We remain committed to kindness, respect, flexibility, inclusion, and trust-worthy guidance. We will stay closely in touch in the coming days as we all navigate a challenging time together. I am comforted by the great capacity for care in our community that reveals itself in such moments.

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

Warmly,

Tim