

February 28, 2020

Dear Families,

You have probably been hearing a lot in the news about the Coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common all over the world. Sometimes these viruses can evolve and infect people. A new Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been making people sick with a respiratory illness which can spread from person to person. Much like the common cold or the flu, Coronaviruses are spread through the air by coughing or sneezing, through close personal contact (within six feet such as touching or shaking hands), or by touching objects or surfaces that are contaminated with the virus. Children under the age of 15 years do not seem to be affected by this virus.

Most cases of COVID-19 have occurred in the Hubei province of China. Infections have also been reported in Korea, Japan, and Italy. To date, there are 22 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States with the majority of these cases occurring in people who traveled from China.

There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Allegheny County or the state of Pennsylvania.

Symptoms of COVID-19 infection include:

- Low grade fever (100.5-102)
- A cough that gets more severe over time, and
- Feeling short of breath

80% of people who become infected have mild cases and do not require any special treatment.

The best way to prevent the spread of any virus is to:

- Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow. Do NOT use your hands!
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Clean surfaces frequently, such as countertops, light switches, door knobs, cell phones, and other frequently touched areas.
- Don't touch your face, and
- If you are sick, stay home until you are feeling better.

As is standard practice at Penn Hills Charter School of Entrepreneurship, every night all hard surfaces such as desks, and door knobs are cleaned with a hospital- grade disinfectant. We will continue that practice.

Though there have been very few confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., we will closely monitor the spread of this infection and take necessary precautions as recommended by the Allegheny Department of Health.

More information can be found at these websites:

www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/Data-and-Reporting/Infectious-Disease-Epidemiology/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.aspx

www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Fabout%2Findex.html

