

March 11, 2020

Dear GMC Prep School Family,

We are closely monitoring Coronavirus Virus 2019 (COVID-19) developments. We continue to take preventative measures to minimize the risk of the virus spreading on our campus. We are aware and are tracking all school closures in Georgia and continue to work with the Georgia Department of Public Health to stay up to date.

We have formed the GMC Coronavirus Task Force and this group disseminates info daily; we will be continually sending updates to all students, faculty, and staff. We have sufficient preventive supplies on hand, such as hand sanitizer and anti-viral wipes in all classrooms, offices, and common areas. We have stepped up our continual disinfecting of our facilities and our Engineering Team works diligently every day to ensure that we are as safe as possible.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised schools to be prepared for possible adjustments in procedures. In our ongoing efforts to protect the health and safety of our school community, we offer the following guidelines and information:

Self-Quarantine After Exposure or Diagnosis-- With Spring Break coming up shortly, March 30 to April 3, we are aware that many families have plans to travel. Please note that the CDC is requiring all travelers arriving in the U.S. from China, even if asymptomatic, to self-quarantine for 14 days. In an abundance of caution, we ask GMC Prep students, parents, faculty, staff and volunteers who traveled to CDC Level 2 or Level 3 areas (for COVID-19), or whose household members are returning from those areas, not to return to school (including any school activities on or off campus) until a 14-day period has elapsed following their return and to obtain medical clearance before returning to campus. As with other extended absences due to illness or extenuating circumstances, students who must self-quarantine will not be penalized academically in any regard.

The State Department in cooperation with the CDC has issued [guidance on Cruises](#). There is an increased risk of infection of COVID-19 in a cruise ship environment and U.S. Citizens are being advised not to travel by cruise ship internationally. The State Department has pointed out that many countries have implemented screening procedures, denied port entry rights to ships, and prevented disembarking. Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and guests, we are temporarily extending the 14-day quarantine to any travel on a cruise line departing from an international port.

If you traveled to these areas, we ask you to inform us by contacting the Principal's office at pgrant@gmc.edu or calling 478-387-4878. We also request that you let us know if you have come in close contact with someone who has traveled to those countries or been diagnosed with COVID-19.

It is our sincere hope that GMC Prep School will continue to operate as normal without disruption, but the current situation calls for contingency planning. If we temporarily cease

classroom teaching and assemblage of students on campus, teaching and learning will continue online. Details will be made available at the appropriate time, if needed.

In the meantime, we continue to take a proactive and preventative stance. Extra bottles of hand disinfectant have been placed in high traffic areas of the school, and our custodians are diligent in the daily cleaning of the buildings. We are reminding students of precautions to follow, including, as always, staying home if they are sick or with a temperature of greater than 100 degrees.

The below steps are recommended to all to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus.

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid sharing food, beverages, and utensils.
- Avoid close contact with those who may be ill.
- Cover cough/sneeze with a tissue or cough/sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces.
- Get your annual flu shot.

It is highly recommended that faculty, staff, and students continue to practice preventive actions as flu season continues. If you are feeling ill, make an appointment with your healthcare provider.

More Information

Outbreaks involving novel coronaviruses evolve quickly and recommendations from public health officials may change frequently as new information becomes available. Please check the following websites often for updated information.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Georgia Department of Public Health website: <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>

For the latest information from the CDC, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> Information on GMC's procedures and protocol for the Coronavirus can be found at <https://www.gmc.edu/current-students/coronavirus-info.cms>.

We are committed to keeping the channels of communication open. If recommendations change, we will email you and post health-related updates on our portal and website. I have full confidence in our faculty and staff, students and families to meet whatever challenges lie ahead and to move forward with a great year.

As always, please feel free to contact me or any member of the administration if you have questions.

V/r,

Pam Grant, Principal

