February 4, 2020

Dear York Families,

I am writing to keep you updated about the School’s continuous efforts to monitor the health of our students and faculty during flu season and address any concerns regarding coronavirus. Additionally, there are guidelines provided below regarding when your student should stay home if showing signs of illness.

**Novel Coronavirus Update**

As you may have read from my previous letter on January 27, no one on campus fits the Center for Diseases Control risk profile and that remains the same. The students who have been in China who could have possibly fit that profile are cleared because they have been symptom-free well over three weeks since their return from China.

One of our students who returned to San Francisco this weekend will not return to campus for at least 14 days until she has been cleared by medical authorities and York's administration. We are following the recommendations of the Monterey Health Department and other health officials.

We still have good news to report about coronavirus in Monterey County. As of today, there are no confirmed cases of the virus in Monterey County. We are in close contact with the Monterey County Health Department, and they will contact us with any changes. We will quickly share developments we learn with you.

**Seasonal Flu**

While we are currently at low risk for the coronavirus, we are at a normal risk of seasonal flu, which means at this time of year, we should take routine precautions to avoid flu transmission on campus. This year’s flu vaccine is effective and we recommend everyone in our community who is eligible for the vaccine to receive it. Additional precautions posted on the CDC website include:
● Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
● Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
● Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
● Stay home when you are sick.
● Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
● Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

When to stay home
In general, we ask our community members to be responsible about when to stay home due to illness. We urge individuals who have flu symptoms to stay home, so they can get the rest they need to get healthy and to avoid transmitting the flu to others in our community.

Individuals with suspected flu, including severe cold symptoms should stay home.

If a fever is present, individuals should stay home at least 24 hours after the fever has left.

Common colds are generally milder and pose a reduced risk to community health. Therefore, we ask families to use sound judgement to decide if common cold symptoms are too severe to attend school. Coughs can last weeks and we don’t want responsible members of our community to feel unwelcome simply because they have a stubborn cough that won’t go away. Most importantly, faculty and staff are here to support any student who misses school because of an illness.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call or email.

Sincerely,

Doug Key
Head of School