Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19):

An Important Notice to Parents, Guardians, and Staff

As health officials monitor the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), we will continue to keep you informed and updated on our efforts to prevent the spread to our school and community.

At Montessori School Name, we understand your concerns regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As information develops, we continue to take direction from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Here’s what we know:

**About COVID-19**

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. Symptoms include:

* Shortness of breath
* Fever
* Cough

While information suggests that most COVID-19 illness is mild, older individuals and those with severe underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems may be at higher risk.

**How It Spreads**

The virus appears to be spread from person-to-person in close contact, generally within about six feet.

Transmission from surfaces contaminated with the virus to a person has [yet to be documented](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html). Although we are still learning about COVID-19, we do know transmission is much more common through respiratory droplets than through surface contamination.

That said, evidence suggests that [novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html).

**Our Responsibility**

Schools play an important role in our community’s effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In collaboration with local health departments, we will share information about the disease within our school community, review plans with local health officials, and protect our community — particularly those with special needs.

*It is imperative to not only prevent the spread of COVID-19, but also minimize disruption in children’s learning and protect students and staff from any associated stigma or discrimination.*

**Our Preparation**

We are continuously implementing strategies to reduce any potential outbreak. This includes (but is not limited to):

* Daily deep cleaning and sanitizing, [as outlined by the CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html)
* Proper hand-washing practices
* Families are encouraged to keep students with cold and flu symptoms home
* Students with related symptoms will be sent home and families are encouraged to seek medical advice for lingering symptoms

The Montessori environment is ideal for hygiene and cleanliness lessons that can be applied in school and at home. From proper handwashing techniques to cleaning your workspace to being mindful of those around you.

**What You Can Do**

We ask for your continued support in our effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Here are some steps you can take to keep us all safe:

* Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
* If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
* Avoid close contact with people who are sick
* Stay home when sick, except to get medical care
* Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, throwing it in the trash and washing your hands promptly after
* If you don’t have a tissue, use the crook of your elbow to cough or sneeze
* Clean and disinfect surfaces in the home
* Choose a room in your home that can be used to separate sick household members from those who are healthy

**Helping Children Cope with Emotional Stress of COVID-19**

Let’s remember, outbreaks such as these can be stressful for children. We ask that you talk with your children about the outbreak, try to stay calm, and reassure them that they are safe — as we will here at Montessori School Name.

[Here is more information on helping your child cope with COVID-19 from the CDC.](https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html)

**We Will Keep you Updated as News on COVID-19 Develops**

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and staff healthy and safe.