



# NOBLE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority at Noble, so I am writing to you today to share the latest information we have related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

We are monitoring the situation closely and continue to rely on the guidance and recommendations from the Chicago Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Chicago Public Schools, and the national Centers for Disease Control to inform our decisions and plans.

Based on what we have seen in affected countries, COVID-19 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness and children seem to be less likely to become ill. The virus appears to be transmitted through person-to-person contact and health authorities expect more cases may occur in Chicago and the United States.

At this time, however, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in our schools. In addition, the public health departments for the city and state maintain that the health risk to the general public from the virus remains low. **We will, therefore, continue to hold classes and events as scheduled.**

### **If you're sick, please stay home.**

While the health risk remains low and there continues to be a great deal of uncertainty about how the virus will impact our schools, we still plan to take reasonable steps to protect against an outbreak at our campuses. Please see the following guidance to learn more.

- We encourage students who are feeling well to continue to come to school and hope there will be minimal disruption to our normal school days. However, we recognize that this is an unusual situation and therefore recommend that students stay home if they have flu-like symptoms. To ensure students are not negatively impacted by this decision, absences between March 9 and April 10 will not count toward the total number of absences for the school year.
- All sick students (with symptoms of respiratory illness such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should consult their health care provider and stay home from school until their symptoms resolve.
- We will work directly with families if a student begins to feel sick at school and follow normal protocol that includes encouraging parents/guardians/emergency contacts to pick up the student. Please be sure the school has your most up to date contact information.
- Parents/guardians of children with chronic conditions (like asthma) should work with their health care providers to ensure any necessary rescue and controller medicines are on hand and take special care to keep the illnesses well-managed and under control.
- Students who traveled to countries with widespread sustained transmission of COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after their return to the United States. According to the national Centers for Disease Control, the countries in this category include China, Iran, Japan, and South Korea. You can go to this website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/>) to stay updated on travel-related implications of the virus.



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## **Increased cleaning and sanitation of our schools.**

Prevention is our best defense so we plan to increase the frequency and scope of our cleaning efforts. This includes disinfecting all desks, tables, doorknobs, railings, water fountains, and bathrooms every school night. All locker handles will also be disinfected every other night. Finally, each campus will receive extra disinfectant supplies, including wipes and hand sanitizer.

## **Practice good hygiene.**

I'd also like to share some guidance about what we can all do to reduce the spread of any virus. Practicing basic hygiene such as washing your hands regularly with soap is the best way to stop the transmission of the virus. The Illinois Department of Public Health also offers the following additional recommendations to avoid catching and sharing a flu virus.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and contact your healthcare provider for a plan of care if you or someone you know becomes ill.
- Stay home if 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.

## **Viruses do not discriminate.**

COVID-19 does not distinguish between race, nationality, or geographic borders. Stigma and discrimination against the afflicted discourages early reporting of symptoms and further perpetuates community spread. Please contact your school leadership if you believe your child has been the victim of discrimination.

## **How to learn more.**

You can stay up to date on COVID-19 and on Noble's response to the virus through the following resources.

- Chicago Department of Public Health: [www.chicago.gov/coronavirus](http://www.chicago.gov/coronavirus)
- Chicago's Coronavirus Center: 312-746-4835 or email [coronavirus@chicago.gov](mailto:coronavirus@chicago.gov)
- Illinois Department of Public Health: [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)
- National Centers for Disease Control: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- What to do if you are sick:
  - English: <http://bit.ly/39xwp9W>
  - Spanish: <http://bit.ly/3ascHwf>
  - Chinese: <http://bit.ly/32UfhIO>

As we have seen in recent weeks, this is a rapidly evolving situation. While we will mostly continue with business as usual, we recognize that Chicago may begin to see new cases in the coming days and weeks. For this reason we will continue to monitor the guidance and data from local, state, and federal officials and keep you updated on how changes may impact our schools. Please go to [nobleschools.org/coronavirus](http://nobleschools.org/coronavirus) to keep up to date on Noble's response to the virus and how it may impact our schools.

Sincerely,

Mike Madden  
Chief Operating Officer