

Dear Summerfield Community,

Below are some of the changes we have made and issues we have been working on at school to decrease risk of spreading illness and to prepare for the different possibilities that would impact our school:

In conjunction with our school doctor and based on the recommendations of the CDC and Public Health we have developed a plan which covers the following areas:

- Teaching children proper health etiquette and practices (how to cough, wash hands, etc.)
- Putting up signs in the bathrooms for proper hand washing protocol.
- Stocking classrooms and bathrooms with paper towels to use rather than cloth towels or air dryers.
- Training our teachers and staff to work with the children on health etiquette as well as heightening protocols for what to do when children become sick during the school day.
- Providing appropriate disinfectant cleaning solutions for surface cleaning in bathrooms and classrooms.
- We continue to encourage parents to keep children home when sick and consult their health practitioner with any question regarding symptoms and what to do, and we have told our faculty and staff the same.
- Providing classrooms and offices with hand sanitizer.

In addition to these actions we are continuing to educate ourselves, keep up to date with latest facts and prepare for possible impacts to the school. We do this by:

- Regularly checking the CDC and County Public Health Websites.
- Participating in Webinars on COVID-19 preparation by AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) and NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools).
- Receiving updates from the Sonoma County Office of Education and reviewing their plans.
- Reviewing actions taken by other independent schools.
- Consulting with our school doctor and our local public health official when necessary.

How would a decision be made to close the school?

- We rely on our parents to report illness to us. When warranted, as in the case with COVID-19, we alert the Sonoma County Public Health Department and follow their directives fully. This may mean closing the school.
- If your child has primary or secondary contact with a person who has traveled to a country with widespread sustained transmission we rely on parents to be aware and to follow CDC recommendations for self-quarantine.
- In the event of too many teachers or students out sick or other factors, we may make the decision to close the school before being directed to by County Health.

Closure due to COVID-19 is estimated to last two weeks to a month. In the event of a long term closure, we would consider:

- Moving Spring Break if it has not occurred or shortening it to make up previously missed days.
- Extending school at the end of the year, which may mean moving graduations, plays, trips, etc.

Please be prepared for these possibilities by arranging childcare options, if needed, keeping trip plans as flexible as possible (consider travel insurance), and alerting family who might come from out of town to attend.

All our school events and Spring Break are currently on as scheduled. If there is a need to cancel or postpone any event, we will alert you as soon as possible.

Overall we continue to work on calm and loving care for the children and all those in the community. Reducing anxiety is itself a way to minimize the chance of illness. Our staff and teachers are working hard on these changes, and the children are focused on their school life and work. We will continue to monitor and adjust to the circumstances as they merit and keep you informed.

Thank you for your support as we work to meet these challenges together,

~The Governance Council: Ignacio Garat, Jason Gross and Rachel McGarva