



Dear RPA Families,

We are writing to inform you about steps RPA is taking, or preparing to take, to prevent the spread of Coronavirus 19 if there is an outbreak in our community. As you have seen on the news, presumptive cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus have been found in Oregon and these cases have had some contact with schools in the state. We will continue to monitor the situation in our community and surrounding communities, and we will keep in contact with government agencies and our public health partners, including Oregon Health Authority, Redmond School District, and the Oregon Department of Education.

First, we want to share some facts about the new Coronavirus 2019, also known as COVID-19. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. These can also be symptoms of flu and other flu-like illnesses, still circulating in our community. Our public health officials tell us that the history of this disease indicates that few are likely to need medical care. People without symptoms need not seek care or be tested. Those who become ill should call their physicians to see whether they need to be seen. Their physicians, in consultation with public health officials, will determine appropriate care, and whether testing is needed.

We also want to use this opportunity to remind staff, students, and parents about steps we all can take to prevent the spread of this and other respiratory illnesses, such as the flu.

To help prevent the spread of any respiratory disease:

- Students and staff should stay home when they are sick. If students or staff members have a fever, they should stay home until they are fever-free without fever-reducing medication such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), for 24 hours.
- Everyone – students, staff, school volunteers, and visitors – should wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, about as long as it takes to recite the alphabet.
- If you cannot wash your hands, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60-95% alcohol.
- Everyone should avoid touching their eyes, mouth and nose.

- Everyone should cover coughs and sneezes with an elbow or tissue.

Our hardworking custodial staff are completing daily cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched objects and surfaces. RPA administrators are working with the public health department and the Oregon Health Authority to keep updated on the situation. In the event of an outbreak in our community, we will follow CDC recommendations. Those recommendations could include school closings. School closing decisions are typically made by the CDC and local health authorities, and depend on the number of people infected and the risk of the disease spreading. As RPA already has a blended learning model in place, we are working to develop plans for continued learning during any closing.

We will continue to update you on any local developments. In the meantime, please take care of yourself and your family. Stay home if sick, cover up coughs or sneezes, wash hands regularly and contact our Front Office with any questions. More information on COVID-19 can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>. The attached Oregon Department of Education Frequently Asked Questions about the Coronavirus handout also provides useful information.

Sincerely,

Jon Bullock
Executive Director