



Dear RPA Families,

We are writing to inform you about the continued steps RPA is taking to prevent the spread of Coronavirus 19 if there is an outbreak in our community. We are continuing to monitor the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, in Oregon. There are 14 cases of coronavirus COVID-19 identified in Oregon as of Sunday, March 8. None are in Deschutes County. With the recent diagnosis of coronavirus in Oregon, we are doing everything we can to keep our RPA students safe. The Oregon Health Authority is leading the response, and at this time, the threat to Oregonians remains low. Should the illness spread to our area, we will follow the direction of our public health officials. Any updates will be announced through our website and email.

The Oregon Health Authority has not recommended any closures in our area at this time. Public health experts at the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and education officials with the Oregon Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission recommends against closing schools and campuses where no cases of COVID-19 are present. It also recommends that schools, colleges and universities consider all alternatives before closing a school, college or university in the event that a COVID-19 case is detected among students or staff.

We are taking extra steps to reduce the spread of germs at school. Custodians are doing extra cleaning during the day, focusing on frequently touched surfaces. Our teachers are reviewing proper handwashing and cough/sneeze hygiene with students. Sanitizer and disinfecting wipes are currently supplied in all of our classrooms. We have encouraged any staff and students with fever or respiratory illnesses to stay home. We ask that visitors and volunteers who are ill do the same. We are also asking all visitors and volunteers to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when they arrive and depart RPA.

Everyone can do their part to help be prepared for this emerging public health concern. It's currently flu and respiratory disease season. Many of the everyday precautions we take to prevent flu and the common cold are useful in protecting against the spread of COVID-19. We also encourage visitors to use these precautions when visiting our campuses.

The CDC recommends taking the following precautions to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (If soap is unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.)
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you're sick to avoid infecting others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a cleaning spray or wipe.

There have been some reports about bullying and discrimination against Asians and Asian-Americans in other communities, as the novel coronavirus started spreading in China. We ask that students, families and staff be mindful that bullying of students based on race, color, national origin, or disability is unacceptable at RPA.

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> or <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/pages/index.aspx>. The attached Oregon Department of Education Frequently Asked Questions about the Coronavirus handout also provides useful information.

Sincerely,

Jon Bullock
Executive Director