



Good Evening Covenant Parents, Faculty, and Staff,

I hope that everyone is enjoying a wonderful Spring Break. I wanted to provide a brief update on the Coronavirus and how Covenant is addressing the situation. A cross-functional Covenant Response Team was created earlier this week and is closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) developments and creating plans to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and families.

- **School Student/Visitor Protocols:** Based on recent developments, we will be introducing additional precautionary measures once school resumes, such as asking anyone who comes on campus if they have been out of the country in the last 30 days or have been exposed to someone who has the virus (similar to basic protocols that many businesses and hospitals are implementing). As a reminder, any student returning from a Level 3 or 4 area as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) needs to self-quarantine for 14 days from the time the family returns. Those countries currently include China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, and most of Europe. A physician must confirm *in writing* that you have been symptom-free for 48 hours before you will be permitted back to Covenant. For Level 2 areas and those returning from a cruise, we strongly encourage you to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- **Covenant Events:** To limit the spread of the Coronavirus, Covenant will only host/attend events with limited participants (no more than 50 participants physically in the room). At this point, Grand Celebration and Adopt-a-Trail are cancelled; Traditions will be moved to a later date in the Spring.
- **Contingency Plan:** The Response Team has also been working on a contingency plan should the City of Houston close schools. More details on the contingency plan will be provided if needed.
- **Extension of Spring Break:** To help ensure the health and safety of our school community and to better contain the Coronavirus, **Spring Break will be extended by one week and school will resume on Monday, March 23.** Numerous school districts including Humble ISD, Houston ISD, Conroe ISD, the Woodlands Christian, etc. are taking similar precautions. All activities and events that were scheduled from Monday, March 16, through Saturday, March 21, are cancelled including athletic activities. By taking this step now, our community can help slow the spread of the Coronavirus. Social distancing helps protect students, staff, and the larger Covenant community.

We recognize that these additional precautions may be inconvenient or challenging, but they reflect our commitment to put safety first in all that we do. Since this is a developing situation for our community, state, and nation, we will continue to monitor information, assess conditions, and provide updates. Additional restrictions may be required in the future based on recommendations by public health agencies. We will provide another update by Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for supporting the Covenant Family as we work through these unusual and challenging circumstances. And remember, no matter what happens, we have a sovereign and loving God who is in control.

Warm Regards,

*Lorraine Hill*