



Dear Heritage Academy Charter Schools Families,

With the recent media coverage around coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to assure you that Heritage Academy Charter Schools is prepared to address any potential impact on the schools in our network, should it become necessary. We also remain in close and consistent contact with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), local county health departments, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding this situation.

### **Measures for Prevention**

We are currently following CDC's recommended steps to protect against coronavirus in the same way we would prevent the spread of other respiratory illnesses, such as the flu. Our teachers and staff are working carefully to encourage the simple and effective habits of frequent hand-washing, covering every cough or sneeze, and cleaning classroom tables/surfaces frequently. We also encourage our parents and guardians to reinforce this message at home. We employ professional custodial service providers on our campuses to support our efforts to keep our buildings and workspaces clean. They are utilizing industry best practices for sanitization in our schools.

Additionally, our campus health care providers are using screening procedures recommended by county health officials to help identify individuals potentially needing further medical follow up. A protocol is in place that ensures county health officials are engaged in this process.

With Spring Break approaching, we are passing along the CDC's recommendation for international travel. Visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html) for more information.

We want to reinforce the importance of simple everyday preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home when 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.
- Do not eat or drink after others.

Updated information from the CDC about the coronavirus may be found here:

- General: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- FAQ COVID-19 and Children: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>.

### **If You See Signs of Illness**

If you or your child develop a fever and symptoms of a respiratory illness similar to influenza, the best thing to do is stay home and call your healthcare professional. If they determine there is a risk for coronavirus due to recent travel or proximity to an infected person, your healthcare professional will work with our county health department and the CDC to determine if tests are needed for COVID-19. More information about steps to take if you feel you or someone you know may have contracted coronavirus can be found on the CDC website here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>

Beyond the obvious concern with coronavirus, students who come to school while they are sick exposes the broader school community to that illness, and could create a detrimental environment for learning. The CDC recommends that sick students stay home if they exhibit flu-like symptoms until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100+ degrees), or signs of fever are gone.

While we do not anticipate closures of any of our schools at this time, we do have a plan in place to notify parents and the community in the unlikely event this happens.

As with any illness requiring a child to miss an extended period of time in the classroom, we work with families to ensure children receive the instruction they need to remain on schedule.

As this situation evolves, we will provide updates. If you have any questions please email Dana Herrera, RN, at [dherrera@heritageacademy.net](mailto:dherrera@heritageacademy.net).

As always, we thank you for your support and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Davison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Davison  
Chief Executive Officer  
Heritage Academy Charter Schools