



Dear Steiner Parents,

As you are likely aware, on Tuesday, February 25th, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) gave a press conference updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

As the CDC emphasized, there is not currently a coronavirus pandemic in the United States. A pandemic occurs when a disease is spreading from a variety of sources across a large region, and the number of cases across the U.S. is still small. Given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we are monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions.

At this time, there have been no reported cases in the greater NYC area. It is not possible to predict what will happen; however, the school is preparing for the potential scenario in which the NYC Department of Health were to be closing schools.

As stated in our email of January 30th, the school continues to follow additional cleaning protocols to disinfect common areas. We ask that you please work with us in taking the following standard precautions:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Tissues are available throughout both buildings – if you don't have a tissue with you, then cough or sneeze into you elbow or shoulder
- Throw your tissues away in a waste basket
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice)
- Seek medical attention if anyone in your family has symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath
- Students who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness should stay home. If a student comes to school sick (including coughing, sneezing, or short of breath), you will be contacted to pick your child up immediately
- Please keep your student home until they are free of fever (100.4° F or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for **at least 24 hours**, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants)

While it is understandable that adults may be concerned about this situation, keep in mind the importance of modeling calm behavior and sharing age-appropriate conversation with your child.

We will continue to monitor the situation daily, including information updated by the CDC, Department of Health, and communications from NYS AIS (New York State Association of Independent Schools).

Here are resources you may wish to review:

[New York City Department of Health information on Coronavirus](#)
[New York State Department of Health information on Coronavirus](#)
[CDC Prevention Tools and Resources for Parents](#)

With Spring break approaching, we ask you to please be mindful of your plans. Before traveling, check the [CDC's Traveler's Health Notices](#) for the latest guidance and recommendations for each country to which you will travel. Specific travel information for travelers going to and returning from Asia, Italy and the Middle East, can be found on the [CDC website](#).

We will continue to communicate with you if we have further news to share.

Thank you for partnering with us on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

The Leadership Council

www.steiner.edu | 15 East 79th Street | New York, NY 10075 | 212.535.2130