

Coronavirus update – 3/9/20

At Athena, we hold the health of our students and staff to an utmost priority. We realize that the coronavirus outbreak that is happening around the world could cause concern for our families and we want to let you know our plans and procedures as this situation unfolds. Please review our Illness Policy from our Parent Policy Handbook as a guideline to our ongoing procedures. You will find that section of the handbook attached to this email for your convenience.

We follow the AISD's recommendations when it comes to cancellations and emergency preparedness. You can read the statement they have issued here and know that we are following as they release information. As of this writing, there have been no coronavirus cases reported in Austin. American health officials have warned that the coronavirus will continue to spread in communities in the United States and families should follow precautions. However, Infectious Disease Experts have stressed that people should not panic and should follow practical advice.

The CDC recommends that, to help stop the spread of any illness, we follow everyday preventive actions such as:

Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 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.

You can view [this page](#) for more information.

Though there have been no coronavirus cases here, flu activity is high in the U.S. and expected to continue for weeks. We have, as of this writing, six confirmed flu cases among our staff and students here at Athena and many more children who are out sick with fevers. In light of this flu outbreak, we also recommend:

- Eat a nutritious diet of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Drink lots of water.
- Stay physically active.
- Get plenty of sleep.

And remember, students and staff must stay home if they have a fever of 100.1, and they cannot return to campus until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

We sanitize our classroom surfaces at the close of every school day and our external cleaning company cleans and sanitizes every classroom and building every weekend.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.