

Dear Prairie Hill Waldorf School Parents,

Prairie Hill has been actively monitoring the developments on the coronavirus (COVID-19). As you are likely aware, on Tuesday, February 25th, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) gave a press conference updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and what steps should be taken moving forward. We wanted to share with you some of the steps our school is taking to prevent the spread of illness across our campus, and plan for the possible spread of the coronavirus in our community.

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 US is still small. However, given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we are monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions.

Currently, we are following the recommendations of the Waukesha County Public Health Department [Information from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) . More specifically, the most effective way to stay healthy and minimize the spread of infectious disease is to follow basic health best practices like:

- Enforcing great hygiene, like washing hands thoroughly with soap and water (use hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available).
- Covering up coughs/sneezes with a tissue and avoid close talking.
- We ask all faculty, staff, and students who are feeling ill to stay home until they recover. As stated in our parent handbook, you must be fever free without fever reducing medications for 24 hours before returning to school.
- The school will continue daily cleaning processes.

Our school is prepared to alter our procedures and planning should the situation change. We are also thinking ahead regarding the impact spring travel, upcoming school trips, and other non-typical school activities will have in the context of the coronavirus. We will communicate any changes when the time is appropriate.

It is important to remember that handling the spread of a serious contagion like the coronavirus is primarily a task for public health agencies. Any directives from the World Health Organization, CDC, or local governmental organizations should be followed.

In times like this, we are particularly grateful for the strength and togetherness of this community. Please continue to look for further communications from us on this matter.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Ring
Prairie Hill Waldorf Administrator