



Minerva Area Christian School

"Education with Christian Values"

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"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Educating children for this life and for eternity

Member of the Association of Christian Schools International

March 11, 2020

Dear MACS Families,

As you are aware there has been an outbreak of the Coronavirus that originated in China and has begun to become more widespread in the United States. Here at MACS we are monitoring the outbreak and are working under the guidance of the Stark County Health Department, local school districts, and the Ohio Department of Education to create a plan to best deal with the virus. Over the next few days, you may see an increase in event cancellations and school closings. If the need arises for MACS to close, we will disseminate the information as quickly as possible. Furthermore, we do have a plan in place for our students if there is a need for an extended closure.

Here is information about the Coronavirus that has been provided by the Stark County Health Department:

There are 4 coronaviruses that normally circulate in human populations and cause mild respiratory illness, along with 3 coronaviruses originating in animal populations that cause more severe disease (SARS, MERS, and COVID-19). The 2019 novel strain causing the current outbreak is a new one and has a more severe impact in terms of respiratory illness; initial symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. The CDC is still studying how the virus is transmitted, though at this point it is believed to spread via respiratory droplets (like the flu). Children, adolescents, and healthy adults are not considered to be at increased risk for severe illness of COVID 19; older adults and those with underlying medical conditions are more likely to require hospitalization.

Practicing good hygiene can help to limit the spread of viruses in our schools. The virus may persist on surfaces such as desks and doorknobs so as a safeguard, custodial staff will continue to regularly clean and disinfect classrooms and common areas.

The current recommended precautions to avoid exposure to the virus are the same precautions you would take to avoid the flu. To keep your family safe:

- Wash 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 and do not return to work or school until you have been fever-free without the use of fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours.**
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash; if tissues aren't available, cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. However, to prevent influenza and possible unnecessary evaluation for COVID-19, all persons over the age of 6 months should receive an annual influenza vaccine; vaccination is still available and effective in helping to prevent influenza.

We will continue to monitor the outbreak and keep you updated of any cancellations or school closing. We appreciate your continued support of MACS. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

God Bless,

Chris Stoffer
MACS Administrator