



March 9, 2020

Dear ECS Community,

We are writing to update you on our efforts to keep our campuses healthy during the flu season and with recent developments regarding **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**. We are continuing to partner with our local public health representatives and are continuously receiving updates from the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC), which is monitoring the situation closely.

Contingency Plans: In Case of School Closures

At this time, school closures have not been recommended in the communities we serve. However, if that should change, teachers will be in touch by email, phone and/or Google classroom to communicate assignments, lessons, or other content, determine how students will communicate with them each day, share the hours they will be available for students, and share resources students can access from home. **Please be sure we have your current email and phone information.** We will also provide guidance for families who want to pick up school lunches or necessary books, learning equipment and resources. Having face-to-face live interactions with teachers is always the best thing for our students, however we do feel that with your support your child's education can continue online for what we hope will be a brief period of time. We are working to prepare packets and printed materials for families who do not have access to the Internet, but as an environmentally-conscious school we hope to print only if necessary and only for those who do not have access to the internet at home. Hopefully we will not have to utilize these contingency plans, but if we do, we will be ready.

Please be reminded that during these winter/spring months, we are also in the midst of flu season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest the following ways to protect yourself against both illnesses:

- Stay home if you are ill. This includes symptoms such as fever, cough/difficulty breathing and/or intestinal problems. **Please stay home at least 24 hours after you are fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication;**
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; If soap and water are not readily available, please use sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and with cold-like symptoms (within six feet).

Maintenance Practices

Our Site Engineers are prioritizing the cleaning and sanitizing of commonly touched surfaces in our schools. Every night, our staff has been cleaning and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces including desks, cabinet tops, water fountains, and doorknobs. Additionally, you will see an increase in hand sanitizer throughout our schools over the next week. Thank you to our custodians for making this shift and helping keep our entire school community safe.

I wish all of our families, teachers, and staff good health. Thank you for taking precautions to protect yourselves and others in our community. And, as always, we are here should you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Farnaz Golshani
Executive Director
Environmental Charter Schools