

# MILTON ACADEMY

—DARE TO BE TRUE—

Dear families,

Milton Academy continues to closely monitor developments related to coronavirus (COVID-19). As public health officials respond to the virus's spread, we write to provide an update on the preparations we have in place.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health officials maintain that the risk to state residents, including in our local area, remains low. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has urged communities to plan for the likely future spread of COVID-19 in the United States. Given this guidance and the rapidly changing global situation, we continue to reevaluate as necessary our planning and programming, including review of our emergency operation plans and pandemic preparation measures.

## **Spring break**

We have engaged in extensive conversation regarding the upcoming spring break, and out of an abundance of caution, have canceled our Upper School student international spring break trips. Details have been communicated directly with affected families. Additional planning will evolve in accordance with the latest information and we continue to evaluate plans for domestic spring break trips. On-campus accommodations have been made for boarding students who are unable to return to their home countries due to travel restrictions. In addition to our own dorm accommodations, local families have also generously volunteered their homes to these students.

All students, faculty, and staff who are planning to travel during the March spring break are strongly encouraged to closely monitor and follow updated travel guidance on the [CDC](#) and [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) websites as it becomes available. We urge those who will be traveling over the break to exercise caution and common sense regarding travel in general, and especially to or near any region affected by COVID-19 that is not already restricted to travelers.

We ask that all members of our community help us to protect everyone on campus. **Anyone with a fever or respiratory symptoms should not return to campus.** Please first contact our Health Center at 617-898-2450 for an initial phone consultation. It is important for individuals who have recently traveled and become ill to notify our Health Center of their travel history. Anyone traveling from an area where known or suspected cases of COVID-19 are reported should also contact our Health Center **before** returning to campus.

## **On-campus planning**

In an effort to prevent the spread of any illness on campus, our School is working diligently to clean and disinfect appropriately, and our Health Center is well equipped to work with students already on campus who may present with respiratory symptoms. This effort also requires the

willingness of parents to keep home children with any communicable symptoms, including cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. In addition to global COVID-19 concerns, we want to remind you that Massachusetts remains in an active flu season.

Please be mindful of and engage in [important, everyday practices](#) that promote hygiene and help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who 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 using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Our faculty and technology departments are engaged in ongoing planning conversations to mitigate any potential effects of disruption to our academic program, and we will update you again as necessary.

If you have questions, please contact Paula Larson, in our Health & Counseling Center, at 617-898-2450 or [paula\\_larson@milton.edu](mailto:paula_larson@milton.edu), or your principal. For additional details on COVID-19, please visit the [CDC](#) and [WHO](#) websites.

Sincerely,

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