



March 9, 2020

Dear Parents,

We have been closely watching the COVID-19 situation as it unfolds locally, nationally, and internationally. At Derryfield, we are making decisions and taking precautions designed to protect the health and safety of our community. **This letter contains important information for your family.**

Status of all March break trips

Regrettably, all spring break trips, domestic and international, have been cancelled and families have been notified. We made this difficult decision out of an abundance of caution, putting our students' and chaperones' health and safety as our first priority.

Families that are traveling domestically or internationally over March break

We are asking families to share information concerning where they are traveling over March break. The reason we are asking for all travel plans now, and not just for those going to higher risk areas, is that the COVID-19 situation is changing daily. In order to help us manage this evolving situation as best that we can, we request that each family that is traveling complete a [March Break Travel form by March 13](#). Family travel plans will only be shared with a small group of administrators and Michele Leclerc, our school nurse. This information will be used to communicate in the event areas that are not now considered high risk by the CDC are re-classified by the end of vacation. [Here is a link](#) to the current CDC warning levels.

Depending on the COVID-19 status after March break, we may ask families to share travel plans for the remainder of the school year as well.

Traveling families and returning to New Hampshire

We strongly recommend that, for the health and safety of our community, families not travel to level two and three countries, as designated by the CDC, until the COVID-19 situation subsides. If a Derryfield family does travel to a level three country, the family members will need to self-quarantine and will not be permitted on campus for 14 days after returning home, regardless of the presence or absence of symptoms.

Here are specific CDC guidelines pertaining to travel to classified countries and other areas:

- **LEVEL 3** (currently China, Italy, Iran, South Korea): Mandatory 14 day self-quarantine.
- **LEVEL 2** (currently Japan): If a person has COVID-19 symptoms — fever (100 degrees or greater), cough, difficulty breathing — mandatory self-quarantine for 14 days.
- **CRUISE TRAVEL:** The State Department and CDC have issued a warning recommending that U.S. citizens, particularly those with underlying health conditions, not travel by cruise ship at this time.
- **ALL OTHER TRAVEL:** For other domestic or international locations, if a student returns home with any potential COVID-19 symptoms, the student will have to stay out of school and contact Michele Leclerc (mleclerc@derryfield.org) about next steps.



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Talking with your child about COVID-19

We are learning together how to navigate this new challenge. Managing our own worry, as well as that of our family members and friends, is important. [Here is a recent article](#) from the National Association of School Psychologists with advice pertaining to talking with children about COVID-19.

Help your child prepare for a possible school closure

Our March 1 letter to families outlined our remote learning plans in the case of a school shut-down; here is a link to those plans. **We ask that students bring home all essential learning materials and tools by Friday, March 13 so that they are prepared, should the need arise, for Derryfield to temporarily close.**

Check before visiting colleges

Brennan Barnard, our Director of College Counseling, has been advised that some colleges and universities are suspending tours and other visit programs on campus. Families should check college/university websites to confirm that they are open before visiting.

Please keep your child's Chinese classmates in your thoughts

As I mentioned in my last letter, none of our Chinese students will be able to return home to visit their families in China. Understandably, they are sad about this, and experiencing varying degrees of worry for their families, some of whom have been quarantined for weeks in their apartments. We are planning some social events for these students. If your child is friendly with any of these students, it would be wonderful for you to involve them in some of your spring break activities.

Informative resources about COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [COVID-19 updates](#)
- [Symptoms and diagnosis](#)
- [Transmission](#)
- [Prevention and treatment](#)
- [General travel tips](#)

The World Health Organization

- [COVID-19 outbreak information](#) and [explanation video](#)
- [Best practices for the prevention of infectious disease](#)

The U.S. State Department

- [Travel advisories](#)

You are always welcome to contact me (mcarter@derryfield.org) or any of the following helpful colleagues:

- Michele Leclerc (mleclerc@derryfield.org), School Nurse, for any health-related questions including about returning to school after travel.
- Susan Grodman (sgrodman@derryfield.org), Associate Head of School, for general travel related questions and information about the cancelled global programs.



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- Ben Dougherty (bdougherty@derryfield.org), Upper School Head or Mark Blaisdell (mblaisdell@derryfield.org), Middle School Head, for questions about what students should bring home for spring break or other classroom related questions.

Thank you to everyone in the community for your patience, compassion, and flexibility as we navigate this unusual situation together. May we all have a rejuvenating spring break, even if it is different from the one we had planned and, in the meantime, I send healthy thoughts to your family and all those in our Derryfield community.

Best wishes,

Mary Halpin Carter, Ph.D., P'13, P'16, P'18
Head of School