



March 2, 2020

Dear Parents,

The health and safety of our students and greater Derryfield community is our highest priority, and we want to assure you that we have been discussing and planning how to handle the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) situation for some time.

What is the prevalence of Covid 19 in New Hampshire?

The progression of this virus over the next few weeks and months is unknown and may change rapidly, so we are developing contingency plans for a number of scenarios, while remembering that we are still in a **low risk situation in New Hampshire. As of today, there is one (1) confirmed case of Covid 19 in the State of New Hampshire.**

The important element in judging a threat though, is to look at the numbers. At this moment, the vast majority of people who get sick get better. In today's *New York Times*, science writer Denise Grady writes that the *New England Journal of Medicine* is reporting that the mortality rate for the 1,099 cases of coronavirus in China is 1.4% which means that those who contract it have a 98.6% recovery rate and that "***Children infected with the new coronavirus tend to have mild or no symptoms,***" because young people are much less impacted by the virus.

What extra steps and precautions is Derryfield taking to keep the campus healthy?

We are working diligently to help contain viral illnesses by regularly deep cleaning our campus and by encouraging frequent and thorough hand washing. At this time, the flu is still a greater risk to our community, and basic hygiene practices remain at the core of any strategy to prevent infectious disease.

What are we doing to support your children during this difficult time?

I recently hosted a lunch in my office with your children to discuss how this issue affects them and their family. We talked about how unprecedented this coronavirus experience is. I said that I haven't lived through a situation where people were affected so much by a virus nor can I remember students being unable to travel home or have their parents visit them. I shared with your children that I would be very unsettled and upset to have the experience of being unable to get home - now, as an adult. As a parent, I can't imagine how difficult it is for you to not be able to have your children return home and spend time with family. I commended them for the tremendous job they are doing by continuing to focus on their academic studies and participating in the Derryfield community. We talked about how it's completely normal to be sad about this situation and to worry about their families and friends in China. We will continue to encourage your children to talk with each other about their concerns, and reach out to trusted adults in the community to share their worries.

Philadelphia Trip Highlights!

Life continues as normal here in New Hampshire, and we were able to take the international students, as planned, to Philadelphia last week. Although blustery and cold, we took the city by storm! Students explored their future and the possibility of attending the University of Pennsylvania, ate at the variety of vendors at the Reading Terminal Market, experienced either an NBA Philly game (76'ers won!) or a Broadway-style musical (hellooooo, Dolly!), and ate at City Tavern, a historic restaurant in Philadelphia where George Washington

himself once frequented! Most of the students were able to feast on a classic Philly cheesesteak, and we took in the historic sites by seeing the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the American Revolution Museum. Our final day consisted of art of all forms at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, from reconstructed Japanese tea houses and impressionistic paintings to what the future could hold! It was a lot of walking over the course of the weekend, but students were happy and excited to explore most of what Philadelphia had to offer.

March Break Activities

Looking ahead, Derryfield School has two weeks off during the month of March. We are exploring options of activities for what the students would like to do. Some of the options we've looked at are the SPACE Entertainment Center, which offers laser tag and more, a movie day (the movie Mulan comes out on Friday, March 27), a dinner hosted by a Derryfield family, and an indoor field day here at the school so that students can utilize the Athletic and Wellness Center.

Summer Housing and Academic Program Options

At this point, the likelihood of your children not being able to return home during the summer is very small. However, if they are not able to, we want to assure you that we will work with you and your families to help them secure summer housing, academic programs, and other summer activities. Later this spring we will have more information and can communicate further details if necessary.

I hope that you and your family are safe and healthy, and will remain so. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me (mcarter@derryfield.org) or Susan Grodman, our Associate Head of School (sgrodman@derryfield.org, or on WeChat at [sgrodman](#)).

Sincerely,

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